

AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH

SOCCER

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WEEKLY

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THE MATTADOR!

MATT HORSLEY

Wolves' Captain
Courageous previews
the NSW grudge match
Wollongong v Marconi

Plus
Paul Agostino
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Young Socceroos
Champions League



SOCCER WEEKLY

AUSSIE & BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY

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SOCCER WEEKLY GUEST COLUMNIST

Northern Spirit's Paul Henderson

HENDO!



What a year it has been! This time last year I was playing State League with Sutherland and training twice a week after doing a day's work as a courier driver. Now, I'm playing full time professional football and having the time of my life as I learn the ropes from some of the best soccer players this country has ever produced.

At times I have to pinch myself when I think of how lucky I have been in the past 12 months.

It all started when the Sutherland President Richard May suggested to Arnie that he come and watch me play. Arnie came along and brought Northern Spirit

goalkeeper coach Steve Watson with him and luckily I went well.

Soon after that they signed me as an apprentice and that stage I was just happy to have signed a contract to play National League.

When we started training it was amazing to be in the company of the guys in the side, people like Graham Arnold and Kresimir Marusic and when Robbie Slater joined us it was something special for a guy like me.

At first it was tough, coming to grips with training every day and washing the clothes as part of my role as an apprentice but I was just happy to be a part of the set up at Northern Spirit.

Then when Arnie picked the side for the first game against Sydney Olympic and he selected me ahead of John Perosh and Peter Blazincic I was honoured, happy and scared all at once.

I couldn't believe I was going to be the first choice goalkeeper. I must say that I have to give a lot of the credit for getting into first grade to our goalkeeper coach Steve Watson.

He has been great for me and helped make the transition from State League to National League a little easier with his hints, coaching and general encouragement.

So in just three short months I had made the move from State League player and courier driver to apprentice soccer player to first string National League goalkeeper. It got better.

When we walked out onto North Sydney Oval for the first game against Sydney Olympic and there were 19,000 people there and the place was packed — it sent a shiver down my spine.

It was then that I realised I had made a big jump and I was part of something very special at Northern Spirit.

Also, North Sydney Oval has become a very special place for me. The crowd there has been absolutely magnificent and they have made me feel both welcome and comfortable.

At times it is daunting to have the whole crowd at Spirit Point chanting "Hendo, Hendo" but I'm used to it now and it actually helps spur me on.

I guess I'm just lucky that they have taken to me as much as they have. It probably comes down to the good old Aussie tradition of supporting the underdog and the up-and-comers.

The support is something that I certainly appreciate and I make sure I get around the ground after every match just to say thank you to the people for coming out and supporting the team.

I don't think it takes much of an effort for the players to do that and it helps keep the fans happy and makes them feel like they are a part of the club.

That is something we have tried to do at Northern Spirit and I believe it is one of the reasons why we are getting the big crowds.

A lot of people have asked me about how I have made the jump so quickly from State League to National League, but all I say is that it has proven one thing: anyone can do anything if they put their mind to it.

It has been very hard work but for any young kids out there with dreams of playing in the National League I can honestly say that nothing is impossible.

All you have to do is never lose sight of your dreams, keep working at your skills and when a lucky break falls your way you have to take it with both hands.

As we move closer to the end of season games it is

becoming more and more exciting but Arnie is doing a good job of keeping our feet on the ground.

A couple of times we have let the semi-finals cloud our thoughts as we have wandered forward but our minds are now on the job and we are focussed on playing to the best of our ability every week.

SPIRIT SHIRT WINNER

DUE TO EASTER, THE COMPETITION IS BEING KEPT OPEN TILL THIS FRIDAY. ABSOLUTELY LAST DAYS!!

If we do that the results will take care of themselves.

I'd like to finish by asking all Northern Spirit fans to get along to North Sydney Oval on Friday night to see our final home game of the regular season against Adelaide Sharks.

The support we have received has been sensational and all the Northern Spirit players are keen to say thank you for making our debut one to remember and ensuring that the future of Northern Spirit is both long and fruitful.

See you all at Spirit Park on Friday night.

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Remember, Soccer won the Ch.7 poll
for most popular football code.

Australian News



By Eva Loukas

The Young Socceroos kicked off their campaign to capture Australia's first ever World Youth Championship with a solid 3-1 victory over Saudi Arabia in Ibadan, Nigeria yesterday.

Australia's win, in extremely hot conditions, was thoroughly deserved as the Young Socceroos dominated much of the match.

The Aussies started nervously in the opening ten minutes but soon settled down to play some good, free-flowing football.

The first chance for them fell to Sydney United's Mile Sterjovski in the seventh minute.

Brett Emerton's cross from the right was met in front of goal by Sterjovski but he could only direct his shot straight at the advancing Saudi Arabian keeper.

Midfielder Brett Emerton was full of running and continued to pose a threat to the opposition with his raids down the right flank and Australia looked dangerous whenever he had the ball at his feet.

The Saudi Arabians did not test the Aussies until the 17th minute when a foul by midfielder Jason Culina led to a stunning 40 metre free kick by Al Mutairi.

Australian custodian, Anthony Breaden, was equal to the task though and produced a brilliant save to deny Al Mutairi the opening goal of the game.

The Australians replied well just one minute later with a good shot from Jason Culina and they continued to improve as the game progressed.

The Young Socceroos built up a slick passing game culminating in a golden goal scoring opportunity for Northern Spirit's Michael Cunico in the 25th minute.

YOUNG SOCCEROOS START IN STYLE

A free kick taken by Culina drifted into the box found Cunico, who could only manage to put his header wide of the post.

The ensuing five minutes held positive signs for Australia with defenders Cunico and Colosimo combining well with Culina in the midfield.

Australia was well in control of the match when they took the lead in the 30th minute courtesy of Jason Culina.

Some good work down the left of the park by Australia saw Marco Bresciano releasing Sterjovski into the penalty area. The striker cleverly dummied his opponent before squaring the ball to the on coming Culina who drilled his shot under the keeper.

The Saudis' main strength came from their set pieces and no less than one minute after taking the lead, the Young Socceroos were on the receiving end of a crackling 35 metre free kick from the boot of Al Mutairi. It was the crossbar which saved the Aussies on that occasion.

Australia continued to pressure the opposition in the closing stages of the first half, breaking quickly out of defence and with more trademark crosses from Emerton.

In the midfield, Italian-based Vince Grella had a solid first half displaying a cool head in the increasingly hot conditions.

In the 41st minute, a free kick taken by Emerton led to a pinpoint cross by Lindsay Wilson to the head of Sterjovski who sent the ball over the crossbar.

The Australians continued to dominate proceedings in the second half and, with his confidence obviously sky high after scoring Australia's opener, Jason Culina fired two more shots at goal in the first five minutes of

the second half.

Culina went on to figure prominently in Australia's second goal of the match. It was his pass that led to Belgium-based striker John Maisano doubling Australia's lead in the 70th minute.

Five minutes later Australia was 3-0 up thanks to an own goal by Al Garni. Marco Bresciano's cross from the left was met by Al Garni who steered the ball into his own net.

As the temperature neared 40 degrees, the hot conditions appeared to be taking their toll on the players with Australia somewhat losing its rhythm towards the end.

Scheinflug introduced the fresh legs of Joel Griffiths and Christian Care late in the game and the Young Socceroos managed to hold on. They soaked up the pressure from the Saudi Arabians in the last ten minutes exceptionally well.

But it was a single momentary lapse in concentration which allowed Saudi Arabia to get on the scoresheet.

Their only goal of the match came in the 90th minute from striker Dabo.

Overall, Australia's performance was a mature and promising one. The Aussies dominated much of the play throughout the game and will no doubt improve as the tournament progresses.

Australia goes on to meet Mexico in their second game of Nigeria '99 on Thursday morning our time.

AUSTRALIA: Breaden, Emerton, Wilson (Terminello 68), Colosimo, Bosnar, Culina, Grella, Bresciano, Maisano (Griffiths 77), Sterjovski (Care 81), Cunico.

Best Aussies: 3: Culina 2: Grella 1: Emerton

*See all the Nigeria 99 news on page 23.

VIDUKA SCORES AGAIN



Magic Mark Viduka scored for Celtic again. Details on page 29.

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Australian News

THE FORGOTTEN HEROES OF SEASON 98/99

By Melissa Muscat

There are many great moments in soccer. Not just for the fans but also the players. The thrill of scoring a goal, winning the match or playing in front of a crowd of anything up to 15,000 each week here in the Ericsson Cup.

But with these good things comes bad, and most of the time it goes unnoticed.

Like every other sportsperson, soccer players are prone to injuries and, this season, it would seem, has been the 'injury season,' with a high number of players being forced to spectate from

the sidelines. I decided to track down three of the casualties and find out how they were doing: Chay Hews (Brisbane Strikers) Tony Perinich (Northern Spirit) and Kimon Taliadoros (Sydney Olympic) have all suffered major setbacks this season with Tony and Kimon possibly out for the remainder of the season.

Brisbane's midfielder Chay Hews was the most fortunate of the three, suffering a grade one medial ligament tear followed by an eight centimetre quad muscle tear, in comparison to a knee reconstruction which the other two players underwent. Fortunately Hews has resumed playing.

"I was out for six weeks with the medial ligament tear, then a further three weeks with the quad muscle tear. It was hard because I'd started training after recovering from the first injury and then I suffered another set back," Chay recalls.

Tony Perinich, striker for new Sydney glamour club Northern Spirit, is yet to make his Ericsson Cup debut for the side. "I'm hoping to make it back for the last couple of games if things go well."

To many, being part of a crowd of 15,000 people is something to cherish, to Tony it's his worst nightmare.

"The worst thing about being injured is watching the boys play. When the crowd is going off when we score, it's like a part of me is missing. I think to myself, 'I should be out there'."

"Don't get me wrong, I still love the feeling of winning and the boys are doing great, but when you know you should be part of something and you're not, it hurts."

Not surprisingly, all three players agreed that watching was the hardest aspect of being injured.



"It hurts," says Spirit's Tony Perinich.



"It's excruciating," observes Kimon Taliadoros.

Kimon Taliadoros, midfielder/striker for UTS Sydney Olympic, describes the feeling of watching his team play against Carlton in Melbourne earlier this season. "In one word, excruciating! Incredibly frustrating and almost traumatic to watch, you're not able to influence the game in any way. Expectations are high this year for the club and they have real aspirations."

This injury, however, was not the only one Kimon has endured. Last season he missed four months of the competition with a torn adductor muscle, so he has been quite unfortunate the last couple of seasons.

"At the moment I am planning for the future and it is good to be part of a club with such aspirations."

Being injured does not just involve the actual injury though, there are other factors to consider. When you're not in action, as Chay points out the rehabilitation is "harder than training in ways, then comes the fitness. You can't play unless you're 100 percent fit and then you have to worry about working your way back into the starting 11."

"We (Brisbane) were winning a few games while I was out, but I guess you have to remain focused. The main thing is to stay positive and don't come back too early!"

Hopefully Ericsson Cup fans will see Tony Perinich back before the end of the season, we wish Kimon Taliadoros a speedy recovery and Chay Hews and his team the best of luck for the remainder of the season.

JUNIOR SOCCER WEEKLY

JUST LIKE YOUNG MANUEL (RIGHT WITH HIS UNCLE STAN LAZARIDIS) THERE ARE THOUSANDS OF KIDS PLAYING SOCCER IN AUSTRALIA. SO, IF YOU ARE AN ASSOCIATION AND YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR JUNIORS TO BE A PART OF JUNIOR SOCCER WEEKLY, CALL NOW FOR MORE DETAILS. 95620559



Uncle Stan ... Stan Lazaridis with his young cousin Manuel at a recent West Ham game.

Australian News

ZANE AND FULLY FUNCTIONAL

By Ashley Hyne

Normally a focus for crosses, Clayton Zane has been on the receiving end of all manner of flak based on his performances this season, although, frankly, he's confused by the fuss.

After the sweetness and light of Newcastle, it all turned to molasses when his scoring touch dried up after making the transition to the Spirit.

"There were times at Newcastle where the ball was on the line and I just had to put it in and now it's harder because people expect you to score."

"You've got a lot of supporters who think that if you don't score you're the villain but there's a lot of people interested in soccer these days who know what's going on."

"A part of my game is to provide goals. I feel I have done better in games I haven't scored in to games that I have."

He had only put one away all season until the home match against Adelaide City: a combination perhaps of ill-fortune, and a more pressurised set-up.



Clayton Zane ... "Arnie uses the wide ball a lot."

Indeed you might have been excused for thinking that the Adelaide match could have been the last throw of the dice for Zane. He had been named on the reserve bench alongside the recently-signed Paul Foster, a striker fresh in from Hong Kong with all those golden boot awards.

Fate, clearly, thought it time to give Zane a break and poked it's fickle finger at Marusic's thigh. Marusic cried off injured, and Zane started the match.

Half an hour against Adelaide, Zane raced to Casserley's floated cross, and met it slap bang in front of goal, his marker trailing behind him. There was nothing much in the header from the stands but the contact was enough to send it wide of the keeper for a crack-ing goal.

Surprisingly, for one so tall, Zane isn't well versed with his noodle.

"I have never scored a lot of headers but this season my heading has improved and I'm starting to get a bit smarter with my positioning."

Sometimes, when they break their duck, goalscorers suffer placement disorder: "Where's the fans? The fans? Where have they gone?" No problem here. Clayton raced straight towards Spirit Point, hands clasped to the heavens, gratitude to the faithful few.

"At Spirit you get the ball off wide really early and they try to get the crosses in just as fast. Arnie likes using the wide ball a lot. I've found this system quite tough to get used to. At Newcastle it was more off the cuff, and they'd normally come down the middle."

Clayton began this season as one of the local recruits picked to shine alongside Slater and Crook. He'd just finished a season at the Breakers with 19 goals and a three match series against the Brazilians, which he feels will springboard him into the Olympics next year.

It could only have got better from there on in, surely.

However, just as the Harvest was ready to be reaped, his goalscoring abilities went into hibernation.

Spectators have the right to complain. They pay money to see players do things they're supposed to do. Clayton's a forward; forwards score goals. Clayton hadn't been.

It is therefore a sign of his own self will that he was there to meet that cross from Casserley. The strength of professional sportsmen has nothing to do with their muscles.

"When I came to Spirit I was just a bit worried about fitting into a bigger club but a major factor was joining the club was to work with Arnie. Like Kossie (John Kosmina) at Newcastle Arnie is an old striker, so I saw it as a way to learn more. He's been a great help."

The change from Central Coast to North Sydney has been immense. Suddenly it's all got a little harder, the fans are that much more demanding. After all, like all big clubs opponents put in that little bit more against you. Has this been the case at Spirit?

"Teams come to North Sydney to snatch the draw and they are getting a lot harder to break down because of it."

"As for the fans well it's like having an extra man on your team. You've got a lot of people who understand the game, and you've got families on 'The Hill' learning about it. So it's a great mix and they aren't hostile at all which is great."

You would have felt after all the negativism of the current season that Zane wouldn't exhibit such an attitude. Clearly, criticism he deals with in the same headstrong way he dealt with that Casserley cross.

Now for the finals ...

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Australian Features

Les Murray on ... coaches choices



Don't brush aside too quickly the idea of two referees per game as yet another flippant invention born in the change-prone offices of FIFA or the fertile imagination of its president, Sepp Blatter.

There is already evidence that it might be a very good idea indeed.

So far all that has happened is that the International Football Association Board – the game's lawmaking body – has decreed that it is worth a look and the idea will be tested in a couple of European lower division leagues next season.

But there already has been a substantial experiment in the concept, the results suggesting huge benefits to the game. Enthusiastic supporters of the concept in the Brazilian state federation of Sao Paulo have, without FIFA's authorisation, tried two referees in some 200 games last season.

The results show marked improvements in the game's entertainment value. The volume of actual play per game rose to 65 minutes, up from a previous average of under 60 minutes.

But the most staggering improvement was in the area of foul play. Statistics showed that infringements were running at between 25 and 30 per game, a reduction of between 60 and 80 per cent from previous averages, depending on which league, country or part of the world. The reason, it is thought, is that players, wary of being spotted by the second referee, were more reluctant to commit fouls away from play.

If FIFA had in mind improving the game as a form of entertainment, and to make it cleaner, then the idea already appears to have much merit. And those conservatives who constantly resist change for the sake of resisting it might be driven to gather their hands in applause.

Just who are the world's national coaches, those eminent men at the technical pinnacle of each country's football? Where do they get their expertise from? You could ask that question after gazing down the voting for the 1998 World Player of the Year.

You will recall that Zinedine Zidane won the thing, ahead of Ronaldo, as voted by the majority of the world's national coaches.

But some had different opinions, many not even considering those two in their top three.

For instance Badu Vieira – remember him?

He tailored our demise as coach of Iran – went for Ali Daei, the Iranian, as world numero uno ahead of Michael Owen. Ouch! NO sign of Zidane. He third choice was Wanchope, some Costa Rican who plays for Coventry.

Gilbert Gress, coach of Switzerland, was interesting. He thought the Dutchman Ronald de Boer was the world's best, edging out Emmanuel Petit.

Probably the most curious of them was Bobby Gould, coach of Wales. Did he go for Zizu, Ronaldo, Roberto Carlos or Owen? Oh, no. Of course, it was Cannavaro the Italian defender.

And then there was Gregory Grant (who?) who coaches the British Virgin Islands. He went for the three Ds: Davids, Denilson and Desailly.



Rivaldo ... voted player of the year by
Padro Fuga of Equatorial Guinea.

Others with weird choices were Araujo the coach of Hong Kong who went for Dunga, Spain's Camacho (Mijatovic), and Padro Fuga of Equatorial Guinea (Rivaldo).

But strangest of all: France's new coach Roger Lemerre who chose Ronaldo, Overmars and Rivaldo in that order. No Zidane, not a Frenchman in sight.

Oh well. It's a game of opinions. For the record Australia's Raul Blanco chose Zidane, as did Italy's Zoff, Holland's Rykaard, Croatia's Blazevic and England's (then) coach Glenn Hoddle.

I guess Raul is in good company.

And if you're wondering about the coach of our neighbours, New Zealand's Ken Dugdale, he went for Marcelo Salas of Chile.

Jimmy Petruzzi on ... fitness and training



I'm a fitness adviser and footballer based in London. I have played professional football in Italy, Romania, United States of America, and presently the United Kingdom. Alongside my football profession I'm also a fitness and conditioning coach.

I have worked with several worldwide clubs, and many in the premier league, such as Arsenal, West Ham, Crystal Palace and presently Queens Park Rangers.

I have been in Australia for the past few weeks. Whilst at home I have taken the opportunity to watch a few league games. I believe the game has come a long way since I last played here five years ago, I'd like to contribute to furthering the number one game, as Soccer Weekly have given me the opportunity to discuss some fitness training ideas.

Mainly I would like to briefly discuss specific training, a flexibility programme and components to be considered in designing a programme.

When advising a team on fitness training, it is important to take into consideration each individual's state of fitness. This can be done by assessing each individual's fitness component. i.e. V02 max, flexibility, aerobic and anaerobic fitness, then proceeding with a programme of fitness designed to further condition the cardiorespiratory system, weight training exercises designed to increase muscular endurance, strength and speed.

Also to be included are a number of stretching exercises to maintain or increase normative flexibility around specific joints.

Because football is a multiple sprint game, an example session is listed below:

- Steady state 20-40 minute runs
75-85%HR

- Prolonged high intensity 6x90 second efforts
90% HR
(1 minute jog recovery)

- Intermittent sprints
8 all out sprints as a pyramid
(5; 10; 20; 30; 25; 15; 12; 8 seconds)

- Power bursts
Squat jumps; power lunges; power cleans
3-6 reps
70% 1 RM

- Flexibility
Combination of active and passive stretching of major muscle groups

WEIGHT TRAINING

SPECIFICS OF STRENGTH TRAINING

The game demands and the particular 'period' will determine the choice of exercise that is included in the sportsperson repertoire.

It also, in order to priorities be prudent to think about the

order of exercises, for example, are the large muscle groups worked first or does the game require more use of the smaller muscle groups, in which case it may be important to offer them more overload.

The load of intensity will again be of concern here that the most appropriate training effect or adaptation will take place. It is commonly recommended that low repetition, high resistance is most appropriate for developing strength, so 4-8 repetitions at 80-90% of one repetition maximum may be appropriate.

In order to develop power and speed of movement, increased repetition, increased slightly to 8-10 at a resistance of 60-80% of one repetition maximum for strength/endurance 12-16 repetitions can be used 50-70% of one repetition maximum and for endurance 20-30 repetitions at 40-50% of 1 repetition maximum.

FLEXIBILITY

SPECIFICS OF FLEXIBILITY TRAINING

Sports performers are often advised to stretch but are rarely shown how. Also, they are rarely prescribed a coherent programme.

In table 1, a progression can be seen in both the length of

Initial Phase	Development Phase	Specific Phase
3 X PER WEEK	3 X PER WEEK	3 X PER WEEK
Personal passive state	Personal and partner passive stretching (static mode)	Session 1 Personal passive (static mode)
Stretching	2x30 sec hold per body part	3x60 sec hold
3x20 sec hold per body part	Focus on hamstrings, shoulders and lower back	Session 2 Partner passive (static mode) 2x30 sec hold
Focus on whole body		Session 3 Contract relax PNF 1x30 sec hold

hold for static stretching and the type of stretching moving from personal to partner to PNF techniques.

This kind of progression is useful, but the key to successful static stretching, in particular, is to develop from relatively short holds with a number of repeats per hold (say one to three), to longer holds with perhaps fewer repeats, and finally to longer holds and more repeats.

I certainly recommend that as well as stretching as part of warm ups and cool downs, also stretch for relaxation, usually in the evening after a hot bath. This for most people is most effective and therefore most successful.

Please do not hesitate to contact me by post at 1 Tanhouse Farm, Tanhouse Road, Oxted, Surrey, RH89PE, United Kingdom, to further discuss any fitness training matters.

Matt Horsley on ... Wolves v Marconi Sunday, Brandon Park



This Sunday at Brandon Park promises to be something special for the fans and players. Wollongong City Wolves plays Marconi, and I can't wait to get out on the park. Why? Every time we play Marconi there are goals. We beat them 5-1 down here last year in the league, then drew 3-3 in Sydney – twelve goals in two games shows what a fixture this can be.

And with Marconi playing for a finals spot and hitting some form they will come out and try and win, which is how we approach all our home games.

We also want revenge for that 3-3 draw, a game we should have won, and of course for the finals last year.

We had almost 5,000 travelling fans for that game, and even though our Soccerroo Alvin Ceccoli (now playing overseas) scored a great goal, we lost to a team

that put their chances away. If we had played that match at home instead of at Parramatta stadium it may have been a different matter.

Also, we find that this game has more a derby match feel than other NSW games we play. It has feeling and that usually translates into a great game on the park.

Yes, losing players of the quality of Kosta Salapadidis, Alvin Ceccoli and Tony Perinich has made this season a hard one for us. Yet the good news is that our key men are hitting form, with our new French/Tahitian player Quennet really hitting his straps, not to mention Scott Chipperfield, Anthony Surjan and Robbie Stanton (a former Marconi player who has just signed up for two more years at Wolves).

Quennet is a player who has vision and is good on the ball, and Marconi really won't know too much about

him. Hopefully the fans will enjoy seeing him mix it with the likes of Awaritefe and Maloney, who are always dangerous for the Stallions.

And with the Brazilian dance troupe appearing at the game, the Wolf Chase at half-time and your chance to win great prizes by dressing in red and white, it should be a great day and a tremendous atmosphere.

That's the terrific thing about Brandon Park, we cater to the families so we can provide an enjoyable night out for the family on and off the field.

So even if you live in Sydney, come on down to our scenic area, it is a beautiful drive and an entertaining night out at Brandon Park.

As for a prediction, well I don't like giving predictions, but I know it will be a great game of soccer and a fun day out for the family.



The Wollongong Wolf ... see the popular Toyota Wolf Chase at half-time of the Wolves v Marconi game.

See all you Soccer Weekly readers and NSL fans at Brandon Park this Sunday. It will be a game worth seeing.

Australian Features

ADAPTING PLAYERS TO CHANGED CONDITIONS

By Kieran Morrow

How many times have you seen it happen? As the ball is played forward by the opposition, the receiver looks offside. You, as the spectator, look to the linesman and see that the flag has stayed down.

You notice that the defender of your team has also had that glance, and added a shout of "offside" to it. But by the time you look back to where the ball is, the attacker has sprinted past his man and is on a one way trip towards goal.

The defender seems to be miles behind at this stage, and you can only hope that it is the keeper's day. What about when you are a player on the field and a pass you make goes astray?

You swear at yourself in disgust. But by this time, your opposition player has moved around you. The hesitation that you gave in adapting to the new situation has allowed the opposition an advantage.

And another one: the opposition team has a man sent off leaving the game with your 11 players against the opposition's ten. Yet, you find it difficult to take advantage of having an extra player on the field.

Although totally different situations in soccer, the common ingredient in all of them was a failure of an individual or team to adapt to the new situation, and in their failure, the opposition may take advantage.

Sure, soccer is a game of tactics; the skill of a coach in utilising his or her players more effectively than another coach does with their's.

Many believe that if soccer is played to the coach's tactics that the outcome will be positive. But experience seems to warn us: "In a world of order, chaos rules."

How many times have games of soccer been won against the run of play? How many have been won by teams who have been a man down? How many goals are scored when players are too slow to react to the new situation put in front of them?

Situations like, after a throw in is given wrongly to the opposition team by the linesman, or after a player focuses on bad-mouthing himself or herself after a bad pass instead of focusing on defending the opposition player now with the ball?

So now all seems lost. Is that what you are thinking? What is the use of playing to tactics, or training different moves, when in one foul swoop, we can lose a game we should win, even against the run of play? Well, all hope is not lost!

You can actually train yourself and



Coaches can influence games by training players to adapt under different situations which may occur in a game.

your team to adapt to new situations put before you. As a coach, be aware that during training you have the perfect time to train your players to adapt to certain situations.

For example, if you are practising a drill (such as a 4 on 4) where each time the ball goes out the opposition team has the throw or kick in, you may call out instead who is to have the throw in, and then the players have to adapt to this.

A most important ingredient of this procedure and those similar to it, is to make the players aware of why this is occurring. Let them know that you want them to learn to adjust to new circumstances so that when things occur on the field, they can adapt to the new conditions.

Players themselves can also train themselves to be better at different situations they are faced with. The first step is to recognise instances where you may need to develop this.

Examples which are widely seen in soccer include a slow reaction by players as they respond to what they believe are bad calls by the referee or the linesman, or of the player who perceives a bad shot or tackle and hangs their head or shouts abuse at themselves.

It is a good procedure to ask your coach, or your parents, or even your fellow teammates in what situations you seem slow to react, or are not focused on what is happening.

Once you have identified some of these, have a brainstorm session where you think of what you would rather be doing or thinking in those predicaments, and then some possible ways that you may be able to practice this.

For example, if Ben identified that when a bad tackle occurs to one of his teammates, he recalls that he often attacks the player who performed the hack. Ben has identified after discussion with his coach and teammates that even though he feels that he wants to stick up for his teammates, more often than not, because of his actions he has been found out of position and the opposition has manipulated this, or that he has given away a penalty.

He works out that the most benefit in that situation can be gained by attacking the ball instead. Thus, after informing his coach, they brainstorm together methods that Ben may use to combat his original desire.

For example, one method they may come up with is for Ben to sprint to where the ball is and jockey the player in possession (no tackling). So, during training sessions this is practiced by Ben.

The coach can also train his or her team to adapt to particular situations that occur in soccer. During training runs, teams can play ten against eleven.

The coach can have the ten man team play defensively as if they are winning by a goal with ten minutes to go. Or the coach can have the ten man team pretend they are a goal down with ten minutes to go, and the players on both teams get to practise how they would play in both predicaments.

Another is the penalty situation. In games that require a result, unfortunately this is often the decider.

So, practice the different possibilities. Work out with the players who would be the best five first-up penalty takers, and then if all was square after this initial stage who would be the next shooters.

Can you see the point? The penalty situation is perhaps the most anxiety-producing of soccer. It is played only where results are required, such as final matches, and the responsibility is on the shoulders of the individual.

Can you imagine finding out that 120 minutes of grand final soccer, and a 5 shot drawn penalty situation that you have to take the next shot?

Pretty anxious feeling, don't you think? Imagine if this had been practised during training, and you knew that if that situation came about, you would be on. Still anxiety producing, sure! But, you have had time to prepare ways to cope, and practice the event.



Penalty shootouts and send-offs: through practicing dealing with these situations, players can adapt, thus decreasing anxiety.

Therefore, the anxiety will be less than what it may have been if the situation had not been practiced. The coach can pretty much choose any circumstance which may occur in a game situation, and have the players practice these.

Then, in the same way that physical practice of set moves produces results and decreases the anxiety associated with these situations, so too will practice of any other of these situations.

So many critical moments in soccer are related to teams or individuals not being able to effectively adapt to situations put before them, either physically or mentally.

Although it is practically impossible to practice every foreseeable situation, discussion about the possibilities, and practice of as many as possible will improve this adaptation, and may

mean the difference between a goal that wins the game.

*Kieran Morrow is a consultant psychologist specialising in sport and performance. Call 0413 027 468

ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE STRATHFIELD



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St Patrick's College Strathfield has a growing and competitive tradition. Competing in the Independent Schools Association, St Patrick's fields teams from the 13 years to open age groups.

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Applicants to contact Jason Marks, on 9763 1000.

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Australian Features



Welcome Amigos, we are the Four Diegos, so why don't you join us. Let's Samba, let's Rumba, let's La Bamba, let's Salza down the Copacabana with sombreros on our heads. Let's welcome Perth Glory's Olyroo star ...

Vinko Buljubasic



THE BOLD AND THE BULJUBASIC!

Diegos: "One of the hardest things that professional sports people have to cope with is long-term injuries. After the daily consumption of soaps such as 'The Bold and the Beautiful', talk shows like Oprah Winfrey, the full set of 'Rocky', 'Nightmare on Elm Street' and 'Godfather' videos and the mandatory knitting classes, the injured athlete is often reduced to a depressed shell of a man trapped in a lonely world. What has been the hardest thing about not playing soccer for you?"

Buljubasic: "The thought of not playing with the boys and not getting my dose of the winning feeling is the hardest thing. I'm an avid fan of 'The Bold and the Beautiful' and all the rest of the soaps but in between the shows I do a lot of swimming rehabilitation just to keep my mind off what has happened. I've adopted a



Buljubasic against South's Jim Tsekinis at Perth Oval earlier in the season.

John Markovski's jock strap, shaving Vas Kalogeracos' head and polishing Danny Milosevic's boots?

Buljubasic: "I don't know about (d), scrubbing Jonesy's jock strap would be a full time job. I think I'll have to go with (c). Win or lose I'm always there for the players. I still go to all the training sessions and matches. I've certainly learnt a lot. Hopefully I can become a coach or a priest pretty soon."

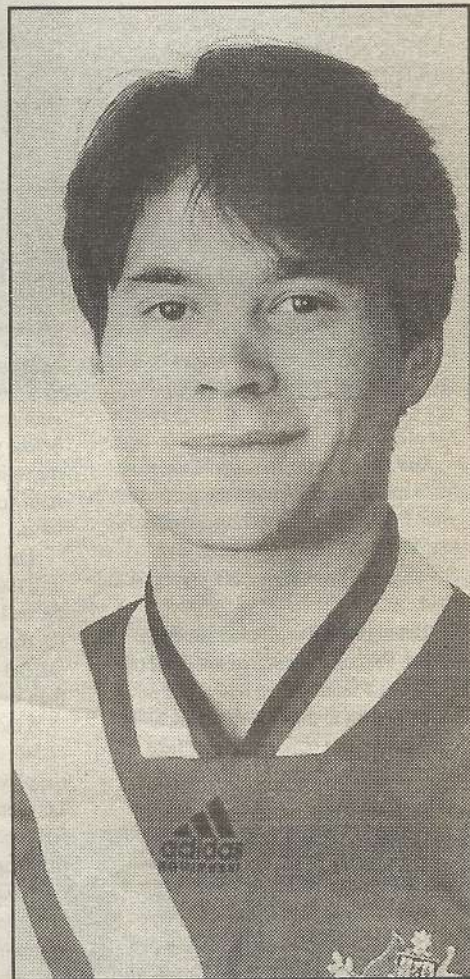
Diegos: "Inactive players sometimes undertake courses that fine tune their mental skills with the view of making them better and more composed under pressure. How are the Tai Chi and 12th Century Tibetan meditation sessions going and do you think you're going to come back a better player when you finally make your return

to the field?"

Buljubasic: "I don't know about the meditation sessions. I think I'll feel much better mentally when I get back to playing and lay my first tackle. I'm not known for being a dirty player but that first tackle will be nice. Perhaps I can show the guy who broke my leg how to tackle. That would be an ideal way of cleansing the soul - Tai Chi style."

Diegos: "What are your goals and hopes for the remainder of the season?"

Buljubasic: "Hopefully to be a support to the players off



Vinko Buljubasic in his Olyroo shirt.

the field in their quest to become champions of Australia. Another Grand final winning medal wouldn't go astray."

Diegos: "Do you have a message for the fanatical Glory fans out there in the stands?"

Buljubasic: "To all the fans, I thank them for all their support. Hopefully we can bring the Ericsson Cup home to Perth for the first time."

Diegos: "Thanks Vinko. Drop us a line if you find out whether Ridge in 'The Bold and the Beautiful' is going to die as a result of a brain tumor, marry his sister or discover that he is the adopted son of Bill Clinton. Adios amigo!"

Buljubasic: "No worries Diegos. I'll keep an eye on it for you. Adios amigos!"

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positive approach to my healing and the only thing I can do now is to work hard, be patient and watch more of 'The Bold and the Beautiful'."

Diegos: "If the Four Diegos were given a taco for every time someone asked you 'How's the leg?', we'd no doubt become four fat Mexicans. We're feeling a little peckish so 'How's the leg?'"

Buljubasic: "The leg is fine. I'll be back running in approximately six weeks. I've been working hard in the pool and doing a lot of physiotherapy. So if I can keep it down to a six month injury I believe I've done well."

Diegos: "When an injured athlete is out of action he often tries to compensate by contributing to the team in other ways.

(a) Have you turned into an 'ugly parent' type, lambasting the Glory players after a poor performance?

(b) Turned into a referee 'hater' greeting every decision against Glory with a tirade of free flowing abuse?

(c) Turned into the club psychologist and resident priest offering a warm and fuzzy shoulder to cry on when players are feeling down or wanting to confess their sins?

(d) Become a servant to the players - scrubbing

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Australian Features



The Four Diegos continue their VW Combi Van tour by dropping in on Socceroo and TSV 1860 Munich star ... Paul Agostino

Diegos: "In the tradition of many Aussie playboy soccer players before you, you have shot over to romantic Venice for a well earned weekend break from the game."

"How's the gondola training sessions going and does serenading on a gondola in Venice impress the girls as much as doing a Cold Chisel rendition in an Aussie pub after a few beers?"

Agostino: "I've got to be careful about impressing the girls because I'm with my girlfriend. I don't think that she would be too happy if I started to throw stunts on the gondolas. We're here to have a break, do a bit of sightseeing and check out what those gondolas are all about."

Diegos: "You came to prominence in the 1993 World Youth Cup, in Australia. It was during this tournament that you twanged The Four Diegos' heart strings by launching yourself, Wayne Carey like, on top of the head of a Uruguayan defender and powered a bullet-like header into the net to keep Australia's chances alive in the competition. Do you still adopt Aussie Rules-type strategies when playing in Germany and if so how do you think Tony Lockett would fair in a TSV Munich shirt?"

Agostino: "I reckon that Plugger would fare pretty well. They like their strikers to be big and aggressive over here. I guess I still use some of those Aussie rules qualities in the German game. It's funny how a lot of people still remember that goal that I scored against Uruguay. It seems so long ago. Whenever I come home I still get people coming up to me and asking about it. I never get sick of it though. It's pretty nice to hear."

Diegos: "You were considered one of the success stories of that tournament. At the time The Four Diegos even touted you as the next big thing to come out of Australia since Kylie Minogue's disco-hit 'Locomotion'. Did you feel at the time that you were

destined for big things and have you been satisfied with the way your career has panned out since?"

Agostino: "I can't say that I've not been satisfied. I'm very happy with the way that things have gone for me so far. The only thing that I've been disappointed with is my lack of involvement with the Soccerroos. At the end of the day that's out of my hands. All I can do is perform well for my club and hopefully then I will get a look in."

Diegos: "You had a stint with the oddly titled club 'Young Boys of Berne' in Switzerland. What was that experience like and were you really the only player over the age of 12 years old in the team?"

Agostino: "A lot of people question why the hell the team is called Young Boys of Berne. I think they think that there's something perverted about the club"

buffeting, hard man striker, more in keeping with his own image as a player?"

Agostino: "He'd call me into his office on numerous occasions and have a go at me because I wasn't getting stuck in enough. Sometimes he'd drag me in and give me a real blast. He is a really intimidating man who used to fill me with fear. In my case his methods brought the best out of me. Some players would lose confidence or become anxious with this approach but I found it really suited me. I've really got a lot of respect for the man."

Diegos: "Have you been able to keep all your teeth?"

Agostino: "Thankfully I've still got my teeth. Unfortunately he has lost a few of his. That's definitely something about him that I don't want to emulate."

Diegos: "You have had great personal success



Six years ago playing for the Young Soccerroos in the WYC here in Australia.

MUNICH'S AUSSIE BOMBER AGOSTINO

Diegos: "Are there a lot of dodgy looking male supporters who roll up wearing trench coats giving away lollies in the crowd?"

Agostino: "Actually there were a few of them now that you mention it. To be honest it was a good experience for me. It wasn't a hugely successful time but I learned a lot about playing in Europe, being on my own and having to fend for myself. I left Australia at the age of 16 and I soon learned that there weren't many people who were going to give me a helping hand. If anything, some of my teammates in the past, had been just waiting for me to slip up so that they could kick sand in my face. It's a real, dog eat dog, environment but it was a great experience and made me a better player."

Diegos: "You went from yodelling and running up and down the Swiss Alps to the harsh reality of Bristol City in the English 2nd Division. Was the soccer and lifestyle in both countries extreme as the places suggest?"

Agostino: "Going from the world of Swiss cheese to the cider drinking city of Bristol, was certainly a shock to the system. As you can imagine there were extreme differences in the culture and football. Having said that, as soon as I arrived in Bristol, I very felt comfortable and fitted in very well. I can't say that I grew accustomed to drinking cider but the club and the city was to my liking. I had a great coach, the legendary Joe Jordan. He took me under his wing and was one of the main reasons why I had a couple of good seasons there. My form was good and I scored quite a few goals which in turn, attracted interest from TSV 1860 Munich and as they say, the rest is history."

Diegos: "Of course the Diegos remember Joe Jordan as the toothless Scottish international who could instill the fear of God into even the toughest defender. Did he try and mould you into a merciless,

with TSV 1860 Munich in the German Bundesliga, especially last season where you played in every game. Was it your physical yet skilful style of play or watching endless re-runs of Hogan's Heroes that allowed you to adjust to top-line German football so quickly?"

Agostino: "I don't know about Hogan's Heroes, but it was probably a combination of the two. Surprisingly it didn't take me long at all to settle in Germany. When I made the move I knew it was the right one. I feel I'm on a good thing here. It certainly does help having Ned Zelic at the club and I think that we are in for a big future in the Champions league or the UEFA Cup, so I'm really happy with the situation at the moment."

Diegos: "You came home a few years ago to play in the Nintendo Superstars of Soccer, Channel Nine TV's quasi-extravaganza. In games that were in reality, tame hit outs to finalise Terry Venables' squad for the World Cup qualifiers, you were voted one of the best afield, yet you still didn't score an invite to El Tel's 'All you can eat' World Cup party. Was not being selected in that World Cup campaign for the Soccerroos a hugh blow?"

Agostino: "I'd be lying if I said that it didn't bother me. I was disappointed and that's the plain truth. Unfortunately this game is a very tough game and sometimes the decisions don't go your way even if you feel that you should've been selected. If I get the chance to play for the Soccerroos again I will certainly jump at it. I'm not one to hold grudges. There are a lot of players playing in Europe so Venables had a lot of players to choose from. The ones he chose, in his mind, were the right ones, so I not going to have a go at anyone but if I'm given the chance, I'd love to have a crack at it."

Diegos: "You get to scrub the back of a true Aussie legend, Ned Zelic, in the TSV showers after each training session and game. Has Ned finally

taken The Four Diegos advice and waxed his back?"

Agostino: "Let's get one thing straight, he scrubs my back! As far as Ned waxing his back is concerned, I have no comment to make about that because I'm sure it will get back to him somehow and I have to see him everyday."

Diegos: "As a result of injury, you have spent much of this season coming off the bench as a substitute. It must be really frustrating for you?"

Agostino: "It is frustrating. I'm not greedy though. I know when the time is right I will get a crack at playing in the first eleven again. After injury I had to get my fitness back so it has been hard, but I have no right to demand an automatic spot in the team. I have to prove at training that I'm worthy of a spot and that's what I'm trying to do."

Diegos: "What do you do on the bench? Do you spend your time pleading with the coach to put you on? Do you hope for one of your team mates to get injured or do you spend your time writing out your next transfer request?"

Agostino: "The last time I wrote out a transfer request my coach ripped it up and threw it in my face, so that certainly did me no good. I think I'll be patient and keep working hard."

Diegos: "Thanks Paul. Take it from the Diegos, serenading your girlfriend with a heart-felt rendition of Jimmy Barnes and Cold Chisel on a Venetian gondola will impress her for life. Adios amigo!"

Agostino: "Thank Diegos. Great idea but think I might go with Kylie Minogue's Locomotion instead. Adios amigos!"



Agostino as a 16-year-old at the then West Adelaide in the NSL.

The Four Diegos are radio celebrities and soccer scribes on Melbourne's Stereo 97.4 FM Saturday 10 am-12 midday.

E-Mail 'The Diegos' on FourDiegos@bigpond.com

Until next time ... Adios Amigos!

SOCCER WOMAN

WITH JANENE MARIN IN CANBERRA

AUSTRALIA'S OTHER WORLD CUP REPRESENTATIVE



Australia's first World Cup selection was announced last week, Queenslander Tammy Ogston (nee Peacock) named by FIFA as a referee on their 31-member panel of referees and assistant referees.

Ogston's appointment will make her the first ever Australian female to officiate at a World Cup, and she is the single Oceania representative for 1999.

Ogston was forced to prove her worth before earning her stripes after the Oceania Football Confederation had determined the Aussie needed further experience in international competition. Despite FIFA's move to appoint all female referees for this year's World Cup, the final of the Oceania World Cup Qualifiers last October was awarded to male officials from Tahiti, Vanuatu and the Cook Islands.

AWSA funded Ogston's participation in the recent Algarve Cup in Portugal where she needed to impress the UEFA (European) inspectors. Basically there on trial, Ogston must surely have felt the pressure upon her.

"I thought if I didn't do well, they wouldn't try anyone from the Oceania region again," explained Ogston from her home in Brisbane. "I didn't want to muck it up for everyone else in Oceania, as I'd heard there were some problems after the last World Cup."

"Even when I was in Portugal, I felt maybe I'm not there yet, as we seem to have a bit different refereeing style in Australia to that in Europe. So I was quite surprised when I was given the news."

The 28-year-old's international refereeing career has seen a whirlwind rise from when she was first appointed to the Ram Sports Cup home test series against the USA in early 1997. Recognised as one of Australia's leading female referees, Ogston then followed up with the Tri-

Nations Series, the Oceania World Cup Qualifiers in Auckland, the Australia Cup, and the Algarve Cup.

Ogston reveals even she did not expect to make it so soon. "Before, I'd hoped I might just go to the Olympic Games, but I didn't really think I'd make the World Cup."

She reveals she didn't seriously think about striving for the top of the refereeing ranks until the beginning of last year. "The US game I thought was just a one-off and a privilege to do. I didn't even know there was a Women's World Cup."

The emergence of female referees to the elite ranks is the result of a concerted effort of identification and improvement over recent years in Australia. Individuals such as Gary Power (Soccer Australia), Alan Kibbler (QSF) and Jenny Bray (National Women's Coordinator) can feel justifiably proud of the part they have played in

Ogston's achievements.

AWSA implemented the introduction of an all female panel of officials for the recent inaugural Australia Cup, and

the national league has proved a vital new pathway for affording female referees added elite experience on a regular basis.

Queensland is leading the way with the development of female referees, a panel of over 30 referees, all female from all over the State, appointed to the June long weekend State Championships for this year. Ogston wishes everyone had a dedicated program for female referees. "It would be nice to always have female assistants. It's a pain in the neck when there's guys and all wanting to have a shower."

Players probably rarely think about it, but a referee's life is so much more a solitary endeavour, as opposed to the team environment enjoyed by the players. Having travelled over to Portugal with the Matildas, Ogston had spent the first few days with the Australians.

But thereafter, the Algarve Cup was the first time Ogston had been part of a panel of referees from all over the world, accommodated with the referees and alone with a group of strangers, not knowing what to expect.

"It was a bit hard," said Ogston. "The Australians are really nice girls, but I can't really mix with them. I can't be seen to be their mates when later I've got to go out and referee them."

"The second week with the referees was actually really good, they were all very nice. I'm a bit quiet and don't like to start the conversation, but they were great. And when my luggage got lost, they all gave me clothes to wear."

Ogston was the centre for the USA v Sweden fixture and the Norway v Sweden match, and assistant referee on the two other match days. After the games, they sat down and informally ran through each official's performance, pointing out aspects which could have been done better. "There's no rivalry at all, everyone helps each other. There were just some little things they do differently to what's done in Australia."

Ogston adds that the instructional feedback process will be more stringent at the World Cup, each match followed by a session going back through the game on video.

Despite her relatively short career to date, Ogston can say she has survived one of the most harrowing of matches, the Australia versus Italy clash in this year's Australia Cup.

During that epic encounter, Ogston sent off three Italian players and was constantly subjected to the fiercest of protestations and unruly behaviour by the demonstrative Italians. But the experience was almost the undoing of her whole career but for the support received from Power.

At half-time I said, 'What the hell's going on' but Gary (Power) reassured me that I was doing alright. He talked to me and calmed me down. All you can do is put your head



Tammy Ogston ... refereeing the Matildas v Italy in the Australia Cup final earlier this year.

up and finish the game. But then it went to extra-time and penalties, but I got through it. I guess you just have to think, I've started and I can't let everyone down.

"I thought of giving in refereeing after that game. But Gary said it would be the worst ever game I would ever come across. He said he'd only ever done one game like that in his whole career."

"When I come off, I always tend to blame myself. I thought I must've done something to get them riled up like that, I must've been missing the first thing or something. But Gary went through the game on video with me and assured me it was just them, they didn't want to play. Hopefully I never get another game like that. Thank goodness for video."

Ogston made the gutsiest of returns to the centre five days later to referee the very same two teams in the Australia Cup final (pic above) despite the many protests from the Italian outfit throughout the week.

"The Italians kept saying they didn't want me to referee, but the Soccer Australia and AWSA people stuck right behind me. I couldn't let them down. They put their trust in me, so I just went out and did it."

Ogston has one other even closer supporter, that of husband David who is also a referee. "I come home from games and can have someone to talk to about it. It's the best way. He comes to watch me and I go and watch him. Both doing the same thing, it doesn't get boring."

But Tammy's greatest supporter won't be able to watch her at the World Cup, FIFA stressing that officials may not be accompanied by anyone for the duration of the event.

Just like the players, Ogston gets nervous before every game and has her own personal match-day ritual. "On the day of a match, I sit around and don't do too much. Then about lunchtime I start to get nervous and I can't sit still. An hour before the game, I'll arrive at the ground. I'm nervous during the warm-up, but then for ten minutes, I sit down by myself and focus on the game and calm myself. Then I'll come together with my assistants and get ready. If I wasn't nervous, I'd feel I wasn't really ready. Once I blow the whistle, I'm okay."

Ogston lists the following as the necessary qualities for a referee. "You have to be able to take criticism but not take it personally. You need to be fit, and I think it's important to have played the game yourself."

"It's good to get the respect of the players. I think it's best to be on the same level — no-one is any better. If they can see you as a person as well, they think 'She's okay'. If you're on the same level, then you've won half the race."

"I love soccer, it's just great. I played for ten years, and whether it's refereeing or playing it doesn't matter, I love it. But I prefer refereeing women's soccer than men's. The women don't complain as much."

CLUB CHALLENGE HONOURS SHARED

Overseas teams Malaysian Ladies Football and the Renaissance FC from Japan joined local outfits NSW Institute of Sport and Marconi Fairfield for this year's International Club Challenge.

The title ended up being shared by the two Sydney teams, the final deadlocked at 1-1 at the end of normal time, but insufficient light not allowing extra-time or penalties.

Sydney's rain was a major barrier throughout the Easter weekend tournament, the three-day event turning into a one and a half day affair with two changes of venue.

Heavy overnight rains ruled out play for the opening Friday, the original venue of Seymour Shaw Soccer Stadium in the Sutherland district under water. A meeting of teams and officials determined a move to NSW's Valentine Complex at Glenwood for the remaining two days.

Saturday saw the full day's schedule of four games completed on heavy but more than satisfactory surfaces, with defending champions NSWIS taking a clear lead with two wins.

But pouring rains returned on the Sunday morning, the referee declaring the pitch too dangerous for play with a good inch of water sitting on the surface of play. The sand-based Solander Field was discovered to be available and in good condition and the trek to the original district of Sutherland was made in order to continue play.

It was soon apparent that the two local teams would be favourite for the final, although the Renaissance FC

showed patches of classy play. With NSWIS winning all three of their round-robin matches, it came down to the winner of the Sunday Renaissance versus Marconi contest, Marconi proving too strong and easily booking their shot at the trophy.

The third-place playoff was an exciting battle between the two visiting sides, Malaysia bouncing back from some heavy defeats to put in their best showing to date and stretching the Japanese to the limit by taking the early lead. Renaissance regrouped and made their

chances on goal count, earning a deserved 3-1 victory.

Underdogs Marconi were fired up from the opening whistle, determined to upset rivals NSWIS and turn the tables on the previous day's 3-0 loss. Joanne Burgess took on the NSWIS defence and her shot hit the inside of the left post. The rebound was not cleared and Melissa Link found herself unmarked to drive home the loose ball from 14 metres.

Marconi continued the more purposeful and dangerous in attack, and were unlucky not to add to the tally. Shortly before the match it was discovered that the lights could not be used as the automatic timer could not be adjusted.

With heavy grey clouds quickly blotting out what little light was left for the shortened 25-minute half, NSWIS snatched the equaliser, midfielder Alicia Cavanagh successful with the vital shot.

Fifty minutes play just managed to be completed in the poor light, and the referee adjudged it too dangerous to continue with any extra-time and/or penalties.

The title of International Club Challenge, trophy and prizemoney was therefore shared for this year's event.

The Malaysian Ladies Football side which travelled to Sydney to contest the International Club Challenge has royalty on its side. The President of the Ladies Association is none less than the queens daughter, the National Secretary is the queens niece, and the patron is the queen herself.

The Malaysian Team can be seen tonight at Valentine Sports Complex, Glenwood when they take on the young NSW Institute JETS.

GET YOUR TICKET

Booked your ticket yet for the AWSA's Awards Night Fundraiser?

**Saturday 17 April
7.00pm for 7.30pm
Rydges Wentworth Hotel, Sydney**

Includes the awarding of the Julie Dolan Medal to the national league Player of the Year, and an auction to help raise funds for the U21 Australian Team to contest the 1999 Nordic Cup in Iceland. Cost \$95 per person, or \$55 per Ansett Summer Series player.

Phone AWSA this week on 02/6281-7999 to book your ticket for this Black Tie evening.

SUMMER IS... ERICSSON CUP

NEXT ROUND

Friday 9 April

Northern Spirit v Adelaide Sharks

North Sydney Oval

Saturday 10 April

Brisbane Strikers v Gippsland Falcons

Suncorp Stadium

Sunday 11 April

Adelaide City v Newcastle Breakers

Hindmarsh Stadium

Carlton SC v Perth Glory

Olympic Park

Wollongong Wolves v Marconi Fairfield

Brandon Park

Sydney United v South Melbourne

Edensor Park

Melbourne Knights v Sydney Olympic

Knights Stadium

Bye: Canberra Cosmos

Please note, these fixtures are supplied by Soccer Australia, and are correct at time of printing. Please check local guides in case of changes. We accept no responsibility for any late changes to fixtures, or incorrect information supplied to us.

RESULTS ROUND 27

Marconi Fairfield 2
Melbourne Knights 0

Gippsland Falcons 1
Northern Spirit 1

South Melbourne 3
Brisbane Strikers 0

Adelaide Sharks 1
Adelaide City 0

Sydney Olympic 3
Carlton SC 2

Bye Perth Glory

◆ *Newcastle Breakers v Wollongong Wolves*
Postponed due to rain, will be played tomorrow
night Wednesday April 7

◆ *Canberra Cosmos v Sydney United*
Played last night (Monday night).

ERICSSON CUP TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Melbourne	26	16	6	4	49	25	54
Sydney United	24	15	3	6	45	31	48
Perth Glory	25	14	4	7	54	32	46
Sydney Olympic	25	12	6	7	43	31	42
Northern Spirit	25	13	3	9	33	32	42
Adelaide City	25	11	6	8	37	25	39
Marconi Fairfield	25	12	3	10	46	45	39
Brisbane Strikers	25	10	5	10	36	42	35
Newcastle Breakers	24	9	6	9	23	29	33
Carlton SC	26	9	4	13	45	43	31
Wollongong Wolves	24	8	6	10	37	39	30
Adelaide Sharks	25	7	6	12	33	39	27
Melbourne Knights	25	6	5	14	27	38	23
Gippsland Falcons	25	5	7	13	15	42	22
Canberra Cosmos	25	4	2	19	20	50	14





ERICSSON CUP

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SOUTH STEALS THE GLORY

SOUTH MELBOURNE 2
Anastasiadis 76, Coveny 78
PERTH GLORY 1
Edwards 36
At Bob Jane Stadium, Melbourne
(Round 23 deferred game)

By Dwyght Tuffnell

South Melbourne just about made sure of a top two finish after their come from behind victory against Perth Glory last Wednesday night.

The round 23 clash, deferred because of the Grand Prix, was played in a finals-like atmosphere.

Almost 12,000 fans braved a chilly Melbourne evening to witness an action-packed game between two of Australia's best teams.

Perth had lead thanks a 36th minute goal from Alistair Edwards, but South won the points with two goals in as many minutes with just a quarter of an hour to go.

Glory, already suffering from injuries to key players, were dealt another blow when Danny Hay pulled out of the game with an ankle complaint.

His replacement, Jamie Harnwell, arrived at the ground just 20 minutes before the match kicked off.

Glory coach, Bernd Stange, said that it was a big blow.

"Danny's ankle swelled up on the plane on the way over here and Craig Deans played with pains in his back."

Concentration and an inability to play for 90 minutes was the reason Perth lost said Stange.

"We played well and looked fresh in the first half but not in the second. We only played for 45 minutes. In the second half we weren't concentrating in defence, we had problems there, it isn't good

enough."

Stange's opposite number, Ange Postecoglou, said it was a vital win.

"A spot in the top two is so important. We've now got a five point break on them (Perth)" said Postecoglou.

"It was a critical game for the whole make up of our season. It now gives us the confidence for the three games to try and win top spot.

"Perth played very well in the first half, hitting us on the counter-attack. We struggled to cope with it and seemed second best at times.

"In the second half we improved and lifted a notch and the players started to play our game which is keep possession and wait for the right opportunity, we didn't do that in the first half."

Vas Kalogeracos, who scored a hat trick last season at Bob Jane as a substitute, tested Michael Petkovic early after receiving a lucky bounce off Robert Liparoti.

Tony Franken, whose current form is keeping out Danny Milosevic, reacted brilliantly to a Vaughan Coveny header that was dropping under the crossbar in the 22nd minute.

Honours had been fairly even until Perth took the lead.

Edwards, a revelation since recently joining the Glory, was on target again when he superbly beat Petkovic with the outside of his left foot from Robert Trajkovski's centre.

That advantage was nearly doubled when a mistake by Goran Lozanovski, and some quick thinking by Kalogeracos to volley over Petkovic and just over the bar.

Perth's defence, marshalled by the solid Gianfranco Circati, was strong in the first period and at the start of the second when it looked as though it would take something special for South to get the goal to get them back into the game.

As time wore on though, they did get closer and closer.

David Clarkson, back from injury, hit an upright in



John Anastasiadis ... his substitution changed the course of the game.

the 62nd minute and a Trimboli chip from 25 metres beat Franken but went just over the crossbar.

A double substitution by Postecoglou in the 70th minute changed the game.

On came John Anastasiadis and George Goutzioulis for Michael Curcija and Steve Panopoulos. Within six minutes of coming on, the two combined for South's equaliser.

Goutzioulis' through ball found Anastasiadis who managed to turn his marker, Paul Strudwick, and beat Franken with a left foot shot into the corner.

The vociferous home crowd had not settled down when South scored again in the 78th minute.

MATCH STATS

Crowd: 11,861

Referee: Brett Hugo

South Melbourne: Petkovic, Iosifidis, De Amicis, Orlic, Clarkson, Panopoulos (Goutzioulis 70), Coveny, Trimboli (Tsekis 84), Curcija (Anastasiadis 70), Lozanovski, Liparoti.

Perth Glory: Franken, Trajkovski, Miller, Circati, Strudwick, Deans (Harnwell 46), Naven, Garcia (Despotovski 80), Edwards, Kalogeracos, Boutsianis (Haipin 62).

Yellows

South Melbourne: Lozanovski (54)
Perth Glory: Boutsianis (42), Deans (47), Garcia (52)

Votes for Player of the Year:

3: Liparoti (SM)
2: Coveny (SM)
1: Edwards (PG)

Another Trimboli effort from 25 metres this time crashed against the bar and down to Clarkson who nodded it back across the face of goal where Coveny dived in to register his 12th goal of the season.

Anastasiadis, whose introduction breathed new life into South, had another two chances late in the game, one in stoppage time that, although not costly, was a shocking miss.

Postecoglou was pleased with the contribution of both Goutzioulis and Anastasiadis.

"We had good quality on the bench and we needed a positive contribution from them. It was a good night for football with a good crowd, every player wants to play in that type of environment."



MARCONI STILL IN IT

MARCONI FAIRFIELD 2
Awaritefe 70, Trajanovski 82
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 0
At Marconi Stadium, Sydney

By John Vrtaric

Two late goals have kept Marconi knocking on the door of the top six. With Northern Spirit drawing away to Gippsland, and depending on the other results, Marconi find themselves, at the most, only one win outside the coveted sixth place.

The Knights' game was only the second time that Marconi's coach, Frank Farina, was able to field the same line-up for two matches in a row.

Youngster Buddy Farah was given the task of sweeping behind the experienced Mark Babic and Dominic Longo, whilst the left wing back role was awarded to Mike Smith ahead of the out of form Brendan Renaud.

Knights' coach, Josip Biskic, fielded a relatively inexperienced team bolstered by the return of Tom Pondeljak, from overseas trials, to partner Ivan Kelic as twin strikers.

It didn't take long for the home team to take the initiative when a speculative Babic chip found captain, Brad Maloney, free on the right.

Maloney was played outside by Joey Rajher and took the ball to the bye-line from where he provided a low square cross that young keeper, Martin John, was able to clear just in front of the threatening Francis Awaritefe.

One minute later an almost identical action saw Kris Trajanovski released by Darren McDonald down Marconi's right flank. Another cross, this time waist high, was slightly behind the incoming Awaritefe and again cleared away to safety.

The match was lively but lacking in finesse and skill and it wasn't until the 21st minute that the next

opportunity was created.

It again fell to Marconi and, again, originated down Marconi's right wing.

Chad Gibson found himself free deep in Knights' half and quickly released the ball to Maloney. A deep cross by Maloney was just behind Gibson who had kept running for the return ball but rolled out to the waiting Smith wide on the left. Smith's first time left foot cross was well directed and found the head of Trajanovski who headed it powerfully but directly into the arms of John.

The Knights had their first opportunity three minutes later when Olyroo Zeljko Susa fed the ball to Alex Kiratzoglou wide on their right wing. His first time cross was placed perfectly and allowed Kelic a surprisingly free header — the glancing header had good direction and beat the slow-reacting Covic but hit the base of his right post and rebounded away to safety.

The Knights came more and more into the game and in the 27th minute a ball released by Michael Reda to Susa allowed the latter latitude to pick his spot for a shot on goal. He seemed to have too much time and, although well struck, the shot sailed harmlessly over Covic's bar.

A minute before the clock struck the half-hour Marconi had a great chance to open the scoring. Kovacevic lost the ball to Maloney deep in his own half and the Marconi captain quickly grasped the opportunity. He dribbled the ball towards the sweeper Nasteviski and faced with two options he chose the wrong one.

He released the ball to his right where Trajanovski was quickly closed down by his marker whilst his striking partner Awaritefe was unmarked, and unspotted by Maloney, on the left.

In the 35th minute the Knights had a second opening

with a neat move on the edge of the Marconi penalty box. A loose ball reached the feet of Kovacevic who first timed it to Paul Magdic, who controlled the ball with his chest and as it landed on the ground flicked it immediately towards Pondeljak.

From just inside the box the little striker half volleyed the ball beating the 'keeper Covic but not the base of his left post.

Marconi had two chances before the half time break — the first in the 40th minute when Gibson picked up a corner clearance wide on Marconi's right.

His cross cum shot was heading towards the far corner where John intervened acrobatically to push the ball over the bar.

The second chance was a minute before half time — an Awaritefe back-heel put Maloney in the clear on the right.

He took the ball towards the bye-line and crossed the ball onto the penalty spot where Trajanovski was descending upon the ball, but quick thinking by the young goalkeeper John allowed him to clear the ball with his feet when he realised that he couldn't reach it with his hands.

A relatively quiet second half sprung to life in the 63rd minute when Gibson picked up clearance from a corner. From all of 35 metres the Marconi midfielder let fly with a tremendous right foot shot which John did well to get his fingertips to the ball and push it onto the bar from where it was cleared out to safety.

Just as the game seemed to be drifting off to a tame draw Marconi opened the scoring in the 70th minute with a well executed goal from a corner. Maloney took the corner from the left to the near post where Babic was waiting.

His glancing header sailed over the defence to the far post where both Awaritefe and Dominic Longo were hurtling themselves toward the ball. Awaritefe was first to it and volleyed it into the net from two metres.



MATCH STATS...

Crowd: 4,239

Referee: E. Brazzale

Marconi Fairfield: Covic, Farah, Babic, Longo, Hooker, Smith, Gibson, McDonald (Renaud 56), Maloney, Awaritefe, Trajanovski.

Melbourne Knights: John, Nasteviski, Jolic (Bazzano 89), Rayher, Kiratzoglou (Kutlesovski 73), Magdic, Kovacevic, Reda, Susa (Collina 83), Pondeljak, Kelic.

Yellows

Marconi: Smith 25, Hooker 58.
Knights: Susa 26, Kovacevic 87.

Votes for Player of the Year:

3: Trajanovski (Marconi)
2: Babic (Marconi)
1: Kiratzoglou (Knights)

In the minutes that followed the action swung back and forth without any clear cut chances before Marconi sealed the result when it scored the second goal.

Babic picked up a loose ball in defence just in his own half and with little opposition in front of him he took a few steps and as he looked up he saw an unmarked Trajanovski.

Left totally alone by an advancing defence attempting to play him offside Trajanovski was fed the ball at just the right time and in perfect position. Running onto the ball he calmly flicked the ball over the advancing John into the empty net to post the final 2-0 result.

In a tradesmen like performance Marconi's defence was very tight with Babic the best of them, as well as being the creator of both goals. Trajanovski was full of running in attack and fully deserved his goal.

The Knights fought valiantly for a team with only pride to play for with Kiratzoglou prominent in attacks and John proving a very capable keeper.



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SPIRIT HANG ON FOR POINT

GIPPSLAND FALCONS 1
Hastie 72
NORTHERN SPIRIT 1
Arnold 43
At Mobil Park, Gippsland

By Damian Tripodi

Gippsland Falcons have proven that a champion team can always match it with a team of champions as they played a 1-1 draw with Northern Spirit.

A modest but cohesive Falcons almost caused the upset of the round by upstaging a Northern Spirit team made up of "Who's Who" of talent.

The visitors, who were using this game to catapult them into a finals "double chance" situation, with the exception of a few individual patches of brilliance were largely outplayed by a determined Falcons outfit who were playing basically for honour.

Again, the multi-million dollar Northern Spirit proved to be a strange combination, as one week they were beaten by the "cellar dwellers" of the NSL Canberra, the following week they outplayed and beat the top team South Melbourne and the following week again, they were lucky to go home with one point against second last Gippsland Falcons.

The Falcons, played like a team worthy of a better position that they are on the ladder.

They had greater possession and more clear cut chances at goal. Nevertheless, when the great stars of Northern Spirit like Slater and Arnold shone, they treated the crowd to some truly classic stuff.

The game was interesting and one might say paradoxical. In the first half, the Gippslanders basically dictated proceedings, with Northern Spirit

counter-attacking scoring.

The situation was reversed in the second half. Spirit lifted their game with the Falcons relying on the counter-attack.

The visitors stamped some early authority on the game with Robbie Slater in devastating form, causing confusion in the Falcons defence, but the home side gradually managed to regroup and take the upper hand.

At the 12th minute, good exchanges between Lev Osman and Will Hastie led to a Perinovich touch which just missed the upright.

Two minutes later Clayton Bell took on two Spirit defenders and displayed some excellent skills before setting up Brian Macnicol, whose shot rebounded off the upright and spun out.

Spirit's first real chance came at the 19th, when a long, well-aimed hit by Ian Crook brought out all of Bojo Jevdjovic's goal keeping skills.

The Falcons continued to push up forward, but lacked finishing qualities.

Slater, who up to this time was given a lot of latitude by the Falcons defence, at the 40th minute took on the entire home side defence, crossed to Luke Casserly, but he couldn't put the ball past Falcons' keeper.

Two minutes later, in a counter-attacking move, Northern spirit caught the Falcons defence by surprise, Slater cleverly eluded his markers, passed the ball to Arnold who equally cleverly had moved forward unnoticed and without a Falcons defender in sight slotted the ball into the net.

Early in the second half the Falcons tried to build up from the back, however their crosses forward were not effective allowing the Northern Spirit players to



Graham Arnold ... led from the front, scored and had a top quality game.

get away with the ball.

Shots by Clayton Zane from another Slater set-up and by Crook from a free-kick were well-saved by Jevdjovic, nine and eleven minutes into the half.

An unbelievable piece of play and solo run by Will Hastie completely broke the Spirit defence and an equaliser was scored in the 72nd minute.

Both sides continued to push hard for a winner, with perhaps the best chance being the Falcons' in the

MATCH STATS...

Crowd: 2,100

Referee: Jeremy Blaney

Gippsland Falcons: Jevdjovic, Gotis, Hopkins, Osman, Nacnicol (Savage at the 90), Bell, Robertson, Perinovich, Vargas, Hastie, Becvinovski.

Northern Spirit: Henderson, Crook, Rudan, Casserly, Marusic, Slater, Arnold, Bilokapic, Zane, Langdon, Enes (Moss at the 46).

Players Votes of the Year:

3: Arnold (NS)

2: Hastie (G)

1: Osman (G)

closing minutes when Spirit goalkeeper Paul Henderson showed maturity and class to flick over the bar a devastating shot by newcomer Sandy Robertson.

Spirit made a few final rushes in the closing moments, but the game was destined to be a draw.

Northern Spirit player coach Graham Arnold stated that the Gippslanders showed plenty of guts and fight. "It's a hard place to come down to and earn a point. It is disappointing to be one nil up, playing well and then losing."

Gippsland coach Stuart Munro was delighted with his team's performance: "It is two weeks now that the team puts in good performances against top sides. It's great that we are playing out the season on a high note."

"The team was fighting against a side of so-called quality players. I am only disappointed that at the end we gave away so many easy balls," stated Munro.

Spirit plays this Friday night in their final game at Spirit Park for the home-and-away matches. They play Adelaide Sharks.

OLYMPIC FIGHTBACK BODES WELL FOR FINALS

UTS SYDNEY OLYMPIC 3
Kalantzis 19, 48, Carle 81
CARLTON SC 2
Cervinski 7, Moriera 37
At Belmore Sports Ground, Sydney

By John Economos

UTS Sydney Olympic's attacking left midfielder Chris Kalantzis scored a goal in each half to enable his team to defeat Carlton 3-2 last Sunday night at Belmore Sportsground.

Olympic's win has now lifted them further up the League ladder and could strongly challenge in the end of season Top Six Series.

Heavy rain pelting down right on kick-off time failed to dampen Carlton's spirit and enthusiasm, drawing first blood as early as in the seventh minute through a powerful header fired into the target by central defender David Cervinski.

In the 15th minute industrious flank defender Scot Baillie almost levelled the scoreline when from the back post he headed an Olympic corner straight into the chest of Carlton's outstretched body of goalkeeper Dean Anastasiadis.

Following a 19th minute corner slung in by Olympic's ace striker Pablo Cardozo, Kalantzis equalised with a brilliant crouching header that flashed inside the left post.

It must be pointed out that Carlton were missing four of their regular stars in Mark Bresciano, Simon Colosimo, Mark Atkinson and Kiwi signing Riki Van Steeden, whilst Olympic were minus their two Youth internationals in Jason Culina and Brett Emerton.

Eight minutes from the break Carlton regained the lead as midfielder Ace Stojevski crossed into the

Olympic box to find Brazilian striker Alex Moreira who head glanced into the target.

The second half was almost all Olympic as Kalantzis pushed up into the front line to join Cardozo and Norman Tome, stretching Carlton's defence to its limits.

Three minutes into the second session Olympic levelled for the second time. A well balanced Kalantzis from the left side of the box drilled the target following a lovely short cross from the right of the box by midfield dynamo Scotty Thomas.

In the 62nd minute Kalantzis came perilously close to nailing his hat-trick as he head-glanced a well taken Thomas corner from the right.

Olympic with its strong and reliable twin central defenders Ante Juric and Mehmet Durakovic keeping things extremely tight at the back, Thomas was running riot in the

midfield with his captain Peter Tsekenis.

Juric on numerous occasions came in to assist Olympic's attack, and this season, together with the nuggety Thomas, the lanky marker has been Olympic's most consistent player.

Thomas, a specialised 'tracker', in reality took over the role of 'playmaker' with his lovely passes and set up two of Olympic's three goals.

It was Thomas on the scene again, and with nine minutes left of play, who brilliantly engineered 73rd minute substitute Nick Carle to score



Another gritty and inspirational display from the midfield Olympic dynamo, Scott Thomas.

the winner.

Raiding the right side of the box Thomas spotted Carle wide on the left to clip him a top cross for the grateful teenager to drill into the target with his left boot.

Best for Olympic were Thomas, Juric, Kalantzis and Tsekenis whilst for Carlton

their best performers were twin stoppers David Della Rocca and David Cervinski plus striker Moreira.

Carlton's coach and former international striker Eddie Krncevic, later stated: "We were much

MATCH STATS...

Crowd: 3,444.

Referee: M. Shield.

UTS Sydney Olympic: Bouhoutsos, Baillie, Juric, Durakovic, Jomaa, Thomas, Blagojevic, Tsekenis, Kalantzis (Zorbas 82), Cardozo (N.Carle 73), Tome (Brennan 89).

Carlton SC: D. Anastasiadis, Anthopoulos, Della Rocca, Douglas (Tolios 82), D.Cervinski, Martin, Tricarico (Oulmaris 89), Marth, Stojevski (Dongho 64), Moriera, Thompson.

Players Votes of the Year:

3: Thomas (Olympic)

2: Juric (Olympic)

1: Della Rocca (Carlton)

under-manned (missing four regulars). I used five young players from our Academy, but it was a hell of a lot to expect them to last the distance.

"Our first two goals though were created by the youngsters, but if you haven't the experienced material you can't expect results. I was happy with our first half but we fell away in the second. Last year we had the best defence but now have copped 43 so far. I started with Thompson (Archie) up front in the first half but dropped him deeper during the second. Olympic have a much stronger bench."

Meanwhile a happy Olympic coach Branko Culina reflected: "I brought on Nick Carle because he can score goals, but he is still not ready to start as yet. I thought Thomas (Scotty) was outstanding in a game that was all about grit and determination. Thomas did that for us with Peter Tsekenis."

"In the second half we surprised them with changes by moving three up front which seemed to confuse them. Defensively in the first half we were well below par."





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THE MAN UTD OF AUSSIE SOCCER?

SOUTH MELBOURNE 3
Lozanovski 37, Curcija 45, Coveny 78
BRISBANE STRIKERS 0
At Bob Jane Stadium, Melbourne

By Dwyght Tuffnell

South Melbourne brushed aside a ten-man Brisbane Strikers on Sunday to stay well on course for a position in the top two.

Brisbane defender Steve Laybutt was sent off at the end of a spiteful first half for a foul on Goran Lozanovski after being booked for earlier for a foul on Vaughan Coveny.

Strikers coach John Kosmina labelled the decision to send Laybutt off by referee Eddie Lennie as a "disgrace".

"He (Laybutt) won the ball, it was a fair tackle" said Kosmina.

"The same thing happened agains just after half time on Chay Hews, there was no consistency."

Laybutt's red card came at the end of a half in which tackles, from both sides, were flying all over the place.

In particular, Lozanovski, and Paul Trimboli, were both targets for some tough Strikers tackling.

The Strikers more than matched South early on, giving their sometimes nervy defence a couple anxious moments in the first 20 minutes.

But while they never really threatened Michael Petkovic, it looked to be only a matter of time before South opened their account.

Michael Curcija had a shot cleared off the line in the 6th minute by Glenn Gwynne and Coveny hit a post in the 20th minute.

Stuart McLaren then forced Petkovic into a neat save

with a shot on the turn.

South broke the deadlock in the 37th minute.

Coveny had been fouled on the edge of the area by Gwynne and Lozanovski, playing his best game for some time, stroked the ball past the wall and into the corner of Clint Bolton's net.

Laybutt, who received a somewhat soft booking in the 28th minute for a challenge on Coveny, infringed again right on half time when he brought down Lozanovski.

Shortly after that, South doubled their advantage thanks to a horrendous goalkeeping error from Bolton.

Bolton, with the ball at his feet, attempted to pass to a team mate just outside the penalty area.

Instead, he found Curcija who gleefully accepted the opportunity and psuhed the ball into the unguarded net for his 11th goal of the season.

Sean Cranney, brought on just before half time, had two chances to pull at least one goal back at the start of the second half.

The first opportunity came when Hews found him on the edge of the area but with Petkovic committed, he ballooned his shot over the bar.

Just two minutes after that Cranney seized on a poor Fausto De Amicis clearance but was denied by a terrific Petkovic stop.

Brisbane had improved from the first half but with Wayne Knipe taken off in the 41st minute and McLaren moved back to cover the absence of Laybutt, lone front man Andy Harper was fighting a losing battle. South seemed happy just to keep on playing rather than force their one man advantage.

They scored their third in the 78th minute when Curcija's diagonal ball landed on the chest of John



Steve Panopoulos ... man of the match performance

Anastasiadis.

With no avenue to goal, Anastasiadis held the ball up before unselfishly laying it off for Coveny to blast it home.

Anastasiadis had the chance to score a fourth in the dying minutes but spooned a shot over the bar after Curcija's pass fell perfectly for him.

Kosmina said that if they had taken their chances, the Strikers may have got something out of the game.

"It would've been nice to come out with a point. There could've been a different outcome to the game if we'd taken our chances.

"We made two silly mistakes that led to the first two goals. They were gifts.

"Second half, we played well with 10 men, Sean

MATCH STATS...

Crowd: 8,892

Referee: Eddie Lennie

South Melbourne: Petkovic, De Amicis, Oric, Clarkson, Panopoulos, Coveny, Trimboli (Anastasiadis 74), Curcija, Polak, Lozanovski (Mustafa 63), Liparoti (Goutzioulis 35).

Brisbane Strikers: Bolton, Gwynne, Zoricich, Laybutt, Harper, Wehrman, McLaren, Knipe (Cranney 41 — Tollenare 69), Hews (Bell 83), Harris, Meredith.

Yellows:

South Melbourne: Lozanovski (25)

Brisbane Strikers: Laybutt (28), Wehrman (89)

Reds:

Brisbane Strikers: Laybutt (45)

Player Votes of the Year:

3: Panopoulos (SM)

2: Curcija (SM)

1: Clarkson (SM)

Cranney had two chances that might have got us back into the game."

South coach Ange Postecoglou was pleased with the victory.

"I'm delighted, considering with the week we've had. Especially after Wednesday night, it was a big game and there was a danger of a let down today where we could have let the other team under our guard.

"Brisbane made it hard for us in the first 20 minutes and I thought it was critical for us to get the first goal.

"Once we did, we were pretty much in control, the send off didn't help them either.

"I thought we played it smart after they were down to ten men. I told the boys to be patient and not go out there and try to score a hatful of goals and force things" ended Postecoglou.



SHARKS RESURRECTED

ADELAIDE SHARKS 1
Duric 81
ADELAIDE CITY 0
At Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide

By Margaret Bowden & Donald Campbell

It's 3.30pm. Angry fans thump the locked admittance gates. Five minutes later, as the gates open, another drama unfolds. Heated words are exchanged between Sharks and City officials and Hindmarsh match day staff. Why is Adelaide City in the home team change rooms? This is the Sharks' home game!

Bright sunshine replaces the morning rain, making the pitch look bright green. As the teams run onto the pitch, the Sharks are again overshadowed. A guard of honour of City flags and a mammoth banner celebrating Alex Tobin's 400th game for Adelaide City take centre stage as Tobin leads his team onto the park.

The Sharks respectfully walk to the side, but what's this? Several of their players are sporting deep blue hair, immediately catching attention. The Sharks and City cheer squads gather behind the northern goal, revelling in friendly rivalry even before the first whistle. The scene is set for a typical Adelaide derby.

This is a game of tactics. Today the pupil Adrian Santrac outmanoeuvres the master Zoran Matic. Joel Porter and Alex Castro have switched

positions, Paul Pezos and Alex Kuzmanovic have a sandwich defence worked out to nullify City's danger man Damian Mori, and Elias Demourtzidis is working in tandem with Alex Duric to 'buzz bomb' City's defence. Santrac plays his masterstroke with the introduction of whiz kid Peter Mihailopoulos late in the second half.

City start the derby with softening up tactics, but the Sharks, to their credit, refuse to be sucked in to a tit-for-tat fouling duel. Mori poleaxes Branko Milosevic in only the second minute, forcing him off for treatment. In earlier times Milosevic may have retaliated and been sent off.

Mori's tactics backfire now as Milosevic vents his anger by playing his best ever game for the Sharks, destroying City's attacks and feeding Porter, Demourtzidis, Castro and Duric for strikes on goal. Tobin — whose hopes for a City win on this memorable occasion turn sour — Milan Ivanovic and Mark Yates are outstanding in the City defence for 80 minutes, but one moment of Duric magic undoes their hard work.

Mori sounds the first warning with a header to the near post from a long Yates throw in the 10th minute. Nathan Wildy dives to his left and saves confidently. Bradley Hassell controls the midfield for the first 15 minutes, combining well with Mori, but Pezos, Milosevic and Kuzmanovic frustrate every attack.

Now 88.5 Coast FM Player of the Match Richie Alagich takes control of the midfield, laying off

balls to Porter, Milosevic, Duric, Demourtzidis and Castro for slow build-ups and lightning strikes on goal. City never regain the ascendancy.

Porter and Duric have shots blocked in quick succession. Tobin appears concussed after a head clash with Porter but plays on. Duric blasts over the bar. Two minutes later Demourtzidis headers goalward from a corner.

Jason Petkovic saves. Mori pops up a high ball for Carl Veart, but Wildy races off his line to save. Michael Hawrysiuk, given his first starting role for City, is cautioned for a reckless trip on Milosevic.

Ivanovic blatantly obstructs Corey Artone as he steams goalwards, but escapes caution as the referee plays the advantage. Castro races 60 metres up the left flank, dodges through the defence and shoots — Petkovic saves.

Three minutes later Castro fires in a rocket from 30 metres. Again Petkovic saves. Then Mori steals the ball in midfield and races forward.

Kuzmanovic dispossess him, the ball comes back into the 18 yard area, Veart roars in from the right as Wildy slides to save. Veart launches both feet into Wildy's chest. Wildy recovers. Half time and it's 0-0.

City have more chances in the second half, with Veart shooting high then wide and Hassell missing a flick shot, slamming in a 30 metre piledriver and feeding Mori and Yates for headers.

Wildy stops everything. The Sharks continue to attack, playmaker Alagich almost scoring from a



MATCH STATS...

Crowd: Official 3,982

Referee: Gerry Connelly

Adelaide Sharks: Wildy, Alagich, Castro, Kuzmanovic, Artone (Mihailopoulos 76), Milosevic, Duric, Pezos, Porter, Westervelt, Demourtzidis (Kokkinopitis 71).

Adelaide City: Petkovic, Yates, Ivanovic, Tobin, Taliadira, Mori, Veart (Menillo 75), Hassell, Hawrysiuk, Kim, Brain.

Yellow:

Adelaide Sharks: Kuzmanovic, Mihailopoulos
Adelaide City: Kim, Hawrysiuk

Votes for Player of the Year:

3: Richie Alagich (Sharks)

2: Milan Ivanovic (Zebras)

1: Alex Tobin (Zebras)

deflected long shot. Duric, Porter, Artone and Demourtzidis continue to pressure Petkovic. Then Mihailopoulos comes on.

Five minutes later, Alagich dispossesses City in the midfield, fires out a pass to Mihailopoulos on the right who passes to Duric in the centre just outside the penalty box. Duric zips around Tobin and stabs the ball past Petkovic with his left foot — 1-0 Sharks with nine minutes left.

Pandemonium. The crowd and the blue headed Sharks go mad. At the final whistle, the players and coach Santrac run to their supporters behind the goal, cheering them for keeping faith. What a celebration. If the Sharks are out of the NSL next season, what a way to go!

National Youth League

Compiled by Roy Hay and proudly sponsored by Prestige Wedding and Function Centre,
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SOUTHERN DIVISION

Round 27

Wednesday 31 March

South Melbourne v VIS

(Match postponed, Round 25 catch-up game)

Thursday 1 April

Bulleen Inter1 Carlton1

Saturday 3 April

VIS v Albury Wodonga

(Rescheduled for Saturday, 17 April 1999 at 1pm)

Sunday 4 April

Gippsland Falcons2 Melbourne Knights0

South Melbourne v Bye

League Ladder

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Carlton	21	14	4	3	59	25	46
South Melbourne	20	11	3	6	33	20	36
Melbourne Knights	22	9	3	10	44	44	30
VIS	17	8	5	4	33	27	29
Gippsland Falcons	20	8	3	9	34	31	27
Bulleen Inter Kings	19	7	3	9	26	34	24
Albury Wodonga	19	1	1	17	18	66	4

ROUND 28

Saturday 10 April

Albury Wodonga v South Melbourne,
(Myrtleford, 6 pm)

Sunday 11 April

Carlton v Gippsland Falcons,
(Olympic Park, 4.30 pm)

Melbourne Knights v Bye

Wednesday 21 April

Bulleen Inter v VIS,
(Veneto Park, 7pm)

LEADING SOUTHERN SCORERS

Andrew Mashoian	South Melb	15
Deniz Ekici	Carlton	9
Scott McDonald	VIS	8
Tony Ouliaris	Carlton	7
Angelo Motsiopoulos	VIS	7

Southern Summary ... Bulleen and Carlton played a one-all draw at the Veneto Club on Thursday to open Round 27 in the Southern Division.

After a tight and scoreless first half, Isayin Erdogan took advantage of a defensive error to open the scoring for Carlton in 52 minutes with a shot under keeper Sasha Bulut. Robert Bresciano made the break which led to Bulleen's equaliser from Robert Ardesi in 82 minutes.

In the only other match played, Gippsland Falcons beat the Melbourne Knights by two goals to nil at Mobil Park on Saturday. The Falcons got away to a blistering start with a goal to Alex Halikias in just over a minute. Michael Katz scored the second in 25 minutes and, despite lots of pressure by both sides, that is how it stayed till the end.

The scheduled match from Round 25 between South Melbourne and the VIS arranged for Wednesday had to be postponed, as was the Round 27 game involving the VIS and Albury Wodonga, adding to the backlog of VIS fixtures which will have to be caught up when the Institute returns from its Malaysian tour.

Northern Summary ... In the table-top battle Sydney Olympic and the AIS played a classic three-all draw at Belmore on Sunday.

No one could complain about the quality of this match and the excitement which kept both sets of fans on the edge of their seats.

For Olympic, Leo Carle, Adrian Cervinski and Lee Miot were the scorers, while Kevo Gulesserian got a double for the AIS and Joshua Kennedy scored the other

goal.

The result leaves the AIS four points clear at the top, but Olympic has a game in hand.

NSW Institute of Sport had a great two-one win away to Marconi Fairfield on Saturday. Mark Hagger put Marconi in front after nine minutes, turning away from a defender and firing a shot under Jeff van Stratten.

Within a minute Simon Catanzaro had produced a carbon copy to equalise, winning the ball in the Marconi penalty area before finishing smartly.

Marconi had a player sent off in the second half, and when Anthony Doumanis of the Institute was brought down in the box after 74 minutes, he got up to take the penalty kick and score the winner.

Northern Spirit beat its Colts team by three goals to one. Clint Mayberry after four minutes, Daniel Watkins in 17 and Ryan Griffiths on the half-hour gave the senior team a three-nil lead at the break, but John Turco reduced the deficit from the penalty spot in 69 minutes.

ACT Academy of Sport beat Sydney United Colts by two goals to nil on Saturday with goals by Yosef Zamora after three minutes and C. Valeri in 74 minutes.

Marconi Fairfield Colts had a five nil win over Wollongong Wolves Colts. The highlight was an Anthony Mondello hat-trick in 2, 5, and 35 minutes. Daniel Lettieri converted a penalty in 32 minutes and there was an own goal in 30 minutes.

The match between Newcastle Breakers and Wollongong Wolves was postponed until Wednesday at 5.15 pm. ACTAS played Sydney United on Monday.

NORTHERN DIVISION

Round 27

Friday 2 April

Newcastle Breakers v Wollongong Wolves

(Postponed until Wednesday)

Saturday 3 April

Marconi Fairfield .....1	NSWIS .....2
Northern Spirit Colts .....1	Northern Spirit .....3
Wollongong Wolves Colts .....0	Marconi Fairfield .....5
Sydney United Colts .....0	ACTAS .....2

Sunday 4 April

Sydney Olympic Academy .....2	QAS .....2
Sydney Olympic .....3	AIS .....3

Monday 5 April

ACTAS v Sydney United (Bruce Stadium, 5pm)

Sydney United Colts v Bye

League Ladder

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AIS	26	18	7	1	90	18	61
Sydney Olympic	25	18	3	4	83	27	57
Northern Spirit	25	17	2	6	54	22	53
NSWIS	25	16	3	6	64	26	51
Marconi Fairfield	24	15	5	4	71	18	50
Newcastle Breakers	24	15	5	4	55	25	50
Wollongong Wolves	24	15	2	7	74	27	47
QAS	24	13	2	9	66	40	41
Sydney United	24	8	4	12	42	42	28
Marconi Fairfield Colts	24	7	4	13	30	42	25
ACTAS	25	5	3	17	32	69	18
Northern Spirit Colts	25	4	3	18	23	93	15
Sydney Olympic Academy	25	3	5	17	23	94	14
Sydney United Colts	25	4	1	20	26	79	13
Wollongong Wolves Colts	25	1	3	21	15	127	6

ROUND 27

Wednesday 7 April

Newcastle Breakers v Wollongong Wolves,
(Breakers Stadium, 5.15 pm)

ROUND 29

Sydney United Colts v NSWIS,
(Valentine Park, 7pm)

ROUND 28

Saturday 10 April

Northern Spirit v Wollongong Wolves Colts,
(Cromer Park, 3.30)

QAS v Northern Spirit Colts,
(Suncorp Stadium, 4.30)

AIS v Sydney United Colts,
(AIS Soccer Field, 7.00)

Sydney United v Sydney Olympic Academy,
(Edensor Park, 3.00)

NSWIS v Sydney Olympic,
(Valentine Park, 6.00)

Sunday 11 April

Wollongong Wolves v Marconi Fairfield,
(Brandon Park, 4 pm)

Marconi Fairfield Colts v Newcastle Breakers,
(Marconi Stadium, 5 pm)

ACTAS v Bye

LEADING NORTHERN SCORERS

Mark Hagger	Marconi	21
Kevo Gulesserian	AIS	20
Simon Catanzaro	NSWIS	19
Daniel Kukucka	Sydney United	14

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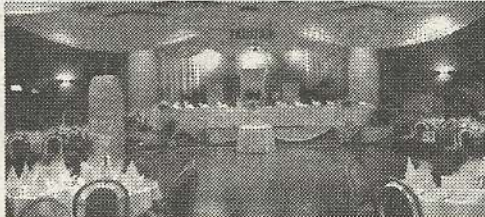
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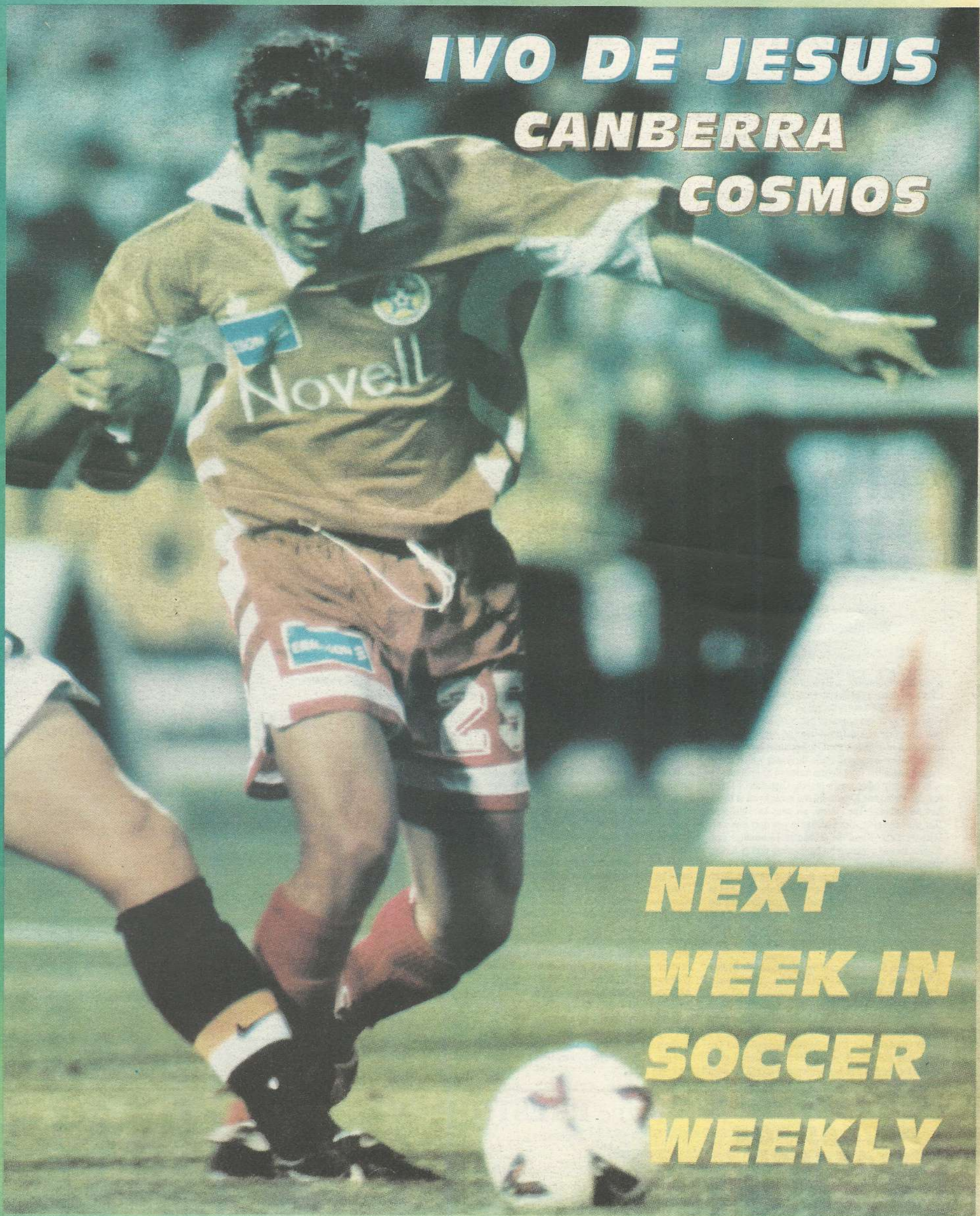
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NSW SUPER LEAGUE

EAGLES HIT SHARKS FOR SIX

Parramatta Eagles were the top scorers in Round 9 action on the weekend, putting six past the Sutherland Sharks. Adam Anderson netted twice for the Eagles.

At the Serbian Centre Colin Luff scored four as Bonnyrigg White Eagles helped themselves to a 5-1 rout over Leichhardt Tigers.

The Tigers cause wasn't helped with Hassan Kdoub being sent off before half time, and their only goal was scored in the last minute through Vince Savoca. Robert Gomez scored Bonnyrigg's other goal.

Canterbury Marrickville and Ryde City fought out a tight 0-0 draw at Henson Park in miserable conditions, while Bankstown caretaker player coach Mile Todorovski was another to see red in his team's clash with Blacktown.

Fairfield Bulls continue to march on with a 4-1 victory over the Central Coast, Mark Hoenselaars grabbing a hat-trick.

Nathan Byrn made it six for the season with his team's only goal. The only Round 9 game that fell to the weather was that between Eastern Suburbs and Macarthur Rams, due to be played at David Phillips Field.

DEMONS ON A ROLL

Blacktown City Demons extended their unbeaten run to five games overcoming Bankstown City Lions two goals to one at Jensen Park on Good Friday in the NSW Super League's Round 9 match of the day.

This eagerly awaited contest between the competition's leading scorers — Bankstown scoring 21 goals prior to this game, eleven of these in their previous three home matches — and Blacktown, with the meaneast defence — only eight goals conceded — lived up to expectations with thrills galore at both ends of the field.

The Demons opened like a house on fire, pinning the Lions back in their own half and were rewarded for their endeavours in only the fifth minute. A 40 metre cross field ball from Damien Brown fell into the path of Chris Bradley near the right hand corner flag and as the Bankstown defence closed him down he checked, cut in towards goal and knocked in a short ball to the near post where Jason Bennett guided his header beyond the outstretched arms of Lions' keeper Zlatko Josevski to open the scoring.

A few minutes later and Josevski was again in action, this time more successfully as he palmed away Jon Angelucci's fine effort.

Whilst the first 15 minutes belonged to Blacktown, the majority of the remainder of the first half was controlled by Bankstown with Alex Trposki starring, regularly cutting through the Demons' midfield to set up chances.

He was particularly unlucky in the 22nd minute after a 30 metre cross field run to the edge of the area, his shot being saved by the feet of Blacktown Goalie Fernando Greco.

A mis-hit by Stewart van Bentum in the 26th minute flew across the face of goal to Zoki Adioski, he reacting quicker than his markers to slam the equaliser home through a mass of players.

Tragedy struck Bankstown one minute before half-time when their sturdy defender Mile Todorovski was sent off for one agricultural challenge too many, although they then almost went in from.

A long clearance from Josevski cannoned off the head of Demons' defender Matthew Lowe and into the path of the completely free Adioski.

As he ran unmarked towards goal Greco came out of his area to narrow the angle but the Bankstown forward cleverly chipped the ball over the keeper and then watched despairingly as the ball hit the post and bounced back to Greco as the referee blew for half-time.

As you would expect, Blacktown then dominated the second half against the ten-man Lions but the home side proved a tough nut to crack. Indeed, it took until the 78th minute before the Demons' numerical advantage paid off.

Angelucci's flick pass to Jackett wrong footed the Lions defence and his cross from the left was knocked on by Damien Brown for the lurking Bennett to drive in his second and Blacktown's winner.

With five minutes to go the Lions were denied an equaliser when substitute Mendo Lozevski broke free through the middle of the park. As a posse of Demons' defenders gave chase, he lined up his shot but Greco, in his 73rd consecutive appearance since re-joining Blacktown in 1977, was up to the

task, beating out the shot with his legs.

With the Macarthur v Easts game being called off, Blacktown moved to second place on the competition ladder, one point behind Super League newcomers and new leaders Fairfield Bulls.

Best for Blacktown: Aaron Holst, Damien Foxe and Damien Brown. Best for Bankstown: Alex Trposki and Zoki Adioski.

Blacktown City Demons: F. Greco, M. Lowe, D. Brown, A. Holst, C. Bradley, D. Foxe, P. Sermanni, S. Riches, D. Smith (J. Jackett 60m), J. Angelucci, J. Bennett.

Bankstown City Lions: Z. Josevski, T. Josevski, R. Luksic, D. Luksic, A. Trposki, M. Todorovski, Z. Adioski (M. Lozevski 72), S. van Bentum, R. Issa (K. Josevski 90), M. Abi-Arrage (M. Jovanov 88), G. Issa.

THRILLER IN THE MUD



By Ben Cubby



Leichhardt Tigers and Bankstown City fought out a pulsating three-all draw in

waterlogged conditions at Lambert Park on Sunday afternoon.

Bankstown struck first, in the 12th minute, after both sides had squandered a number of early chances. Leichhardt 'keeper Frank Mikuletic was deceived by a low, skidding cross from the left, leaving Lions forward Zoki Adioski to stroke the ball home for his sixth goal of the season.

Chris Lansdowne and the impressive David James both had efforts deflected as Leichhardt piled on the pressure in search of a goal. An equaliser came from the boot of Sarkis Boudaheer in the 36th minute, when he curled the sweetest of shots into the top corner of the net from well outside the box.

The visiting team reclaimed the initiative immediately after half time. Eighteen year old Bankstown striker George Issa found space behind the Leichhardt backline and drilled a powerful shot underneath Mikuletic to put the Lions in front. Leon Alexiou almost replied for the Tigers a minute later but he fired into the side netting with 'keeper Zlatko Josevski beaten.

David James notched a well-earned goal for Leichhardt in the 53rd minute. After receiving the ball inside the centre circle he began a mazy run through the entire Bankstown defence, before producing a classy finish to again to again level the score. The home side lifted after their goal, with playmaker Vince Savoca dominating the midfield. Neither team shirked a tackle, though, and stout defensive work by NSW state team player Richard Luksic kept the Lions in the hunt.

Leichhardt took the lead for the first time in the 70th minute, to the utter delight of the vocal home crowd. Chris Lansdowne sprinted free of Tony Josevski on the left and whipped in a low cross to Leon Alexiou. With the 'keeper wrongfooted, the former Parramatta Eagles junior made no mistake from close range.

Bankstown super-sub Mendo Lozevski dampened local spirits by scrambling in a soft goal five minutes later, after a cross from the right had slipped through Frank Mikuletic's gloves. It was end-to-end football in the final minutes, both sides coming agonisingly close to a winner, but the match finished three a piece.

Best for Leichhardt were James, Lansdowne and commanding defender Blago Milicevic, along with the lively Sarkis Boudaheer. Two sets of brothers starred for Bankstown, namely Robert and George Issa in attack and defenders Damien and Richard Luksic.

After the match, Leichhardt captain Eric Hristodoulou said "this is the story of our year so far — we didn't take our chances", but he agreed with officials from both sides who thought a draw was a fair result.

Leichhardt: Mikuletic, Milicevic, Hristodoulou, Savoca, James, Boudaheer, Lansdowne, Alexiou (Roodenburg 75th), Bazdaric, Talceviski, Pettenon.

Bankstown: Z. Josevski, T. Josevski, R. Luksic, D. Luksic, Trposki, Adioski (Lozevski 74th), Issa (Josevski 78th), Abi-Arrage, Bentum, Issa, Kiparizov (Jokanov 25th).

Referee: Nick Asargiotis

Scorers: Adioski 12th, Issa 46th, Lozevski 7th (Bankstown), Boudaheer 36th, James 53rd, Alexiou 70th (Leichhardt).

NSW SOCCER FEDERATION SUPER LEAGUE



ROUND

ELEVEN

Saturday 10 April

Bonnyrigg White Eagles v Canterbury Marrickville

Serbian Centre, 3:00pm

Fairfield Bulls v Leichhardt Tigers

Nineveh Field, 7:00pm

Macarthur Rams v Sutherland Sharks

Lynwood Park, 7:00pm

Sunday 11 April

Bankstown City Lions v Ryde City

Jensen Park, 3:00pm

Blacktown City Demons v Parramatta Eagles

Gabbie Stadium, 3:00pm

Eastern Suburbs v Central Coast

Wentworth Park, 3:00pm

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CADET LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

ROUND 2 UNDER 11

	P	W	D	L	F	A	DIF	PTS
Canterbury M/Ville	2	2	0	0	9	0	9	6
Leichhardt Tigers	2	2	0	0	7	1	6	6
Macarthur Rams	2	2	0	0	8	3	5	6
Marconi Fairfield	2	1	0	1	8	2	6	3
Sydney United	1	1	0	0	3	2	1	3
St George	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	3
Bonnyrigg WE	2	1	0	1	5	8	-3	3
Bye	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Parramatta Eagles	2	0	0	2	3	6	-3	0
Ryde City	2	0	0	2	0	6	-6	0
Parramatta City	2	0	0	2	3	11	-8	0
Eastern Suburbs	2	0	0	2	2	10	-8	0

CADET LEAGUE

DIVISION TWO

ROUND 4

		G/11	G/12
M'bank Spts	v CSI Schofields	2-2	1-3
Macquarie Spts	v Hajduk Wanderers	w/o	w/o
Hurstville City	v Penrith Panthers	2-4	0-2
Hills United	v AC United	2-0	2-1
H'kesbury City	v Mt Druitt Town	6-0	0-4
Illawarra Lions	v Mt Pritchard	9-0	2-0

CADET LEAGUE DIVISION TWO

ROUND 4 UNDER 11

	P	W	D	L	F	A	DIF	PTS
Illawarra Lions	4	3	0	1	21	5	16	9
AC United	4	3	0	1	19	3	16	9
Penrith Panthers	3	3	0	0	14	3	11	9
Hawkesbury City	3	3	0	0	10	2	8	9
Hills United	4	3	0	1	7	4	3	9
Mt Pritchard	4	2	0	2	8	12	-4	6
Stanmore Hawks	3	1	2	0	8	3	5	5
Hajduk Wanderers	3	1	1	1	5	5	0	4
Macquarie Sports	3	1	1	1	6	7	-1	4
CSI Schofields	3	0	1	2	3	9	-6	1
Moorebank Sports	4	0	1	3	4	15	-11	1
Bye	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hurstville City Min	4	0	0	4	3	20	-17	0
Mt Druitt Town R	4	0	0	4	1	21	-20	0

GRADE 12

	P	W	D	L	F	A	DIF	PTS
AC United	4	3	0	1	15	2	13	9
Penrith Panthers	3	3	0	0	10	2	8	9
Illawarra Lions	4	3	0	1	9	1	8	9
Stanmore Hawks	3	3	0	0	8	4	4	9
Hills United	4	3	0	1	9	6	3	9
Mt Druitt Town R	4	2	0	2	8	5	3	6
CSI Schofields	3	2	0	1	9	8	1	6
Hajduk Wanderers	3	1	0	2	3	4	-1	3
Macquarie Sports	3	1	0	2	3	5	-2	3
Mt Pritchard	4	1	0	3	4	9	-5	3
Hawkesbury City	3	0	1	2	0	5	-5	1
Moorebank Sports	4	0	1	3	2	15	-13	1
Bye	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hurstville City Mino	4	0	0	4	0	14	-14	0

CADET LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

ROUND 2

		G/11	G/12
Bonnyrigg SE	v Leichhardt Tigers	1-3	
C'bury M/Ville	v Ryde City	4-0	1-0
Marconi F'field	v Parramatta City	7-0	4-1
P'matta Eagles	v Sydney United	2-3	3-6
Bye- St George			

QUEENSLAND



By Glenn Davis

Brisbane City's worrying form slump in the Queensland premier league took a further battering when Wynnum scored a shock 2-0 home win in a round of Easter weekend upsets in the Queensland premier league last Saturday.

Brisbane City's early season form must now be a major concern for coach Bobby Hamilton whose side has already lost three games in seven matches this season, one more than they suffered all last year.

The only consolation for Brisbane City came late on Saturday evening when bottom placed Toowoomba secured their first win of the season with a 3-0 away victory over second placed Rochdale Rovers while leaders Brisbane Lions were held to a 2-all draw with the Gold Coast.

In the final two Saturday games Taringa Rovers came from behind to down Mt Gravatt 4-2 while Bundaberg moved into the top four picking up a 1-0 home win against Ipswich Knights.

With two rounds scheduled for the Easter weekend all tens teams backed up again on Monday.

At Wynnum, striker Scott Rocker, earned man of the match honours, in a fearsome display notching a double and narrowly missing a hat-trick when he was forced to push a shot wide in the dying seconds.

The little known Rocker got Wynnum off to a dream start after combining with Luke Dodson for the opening goal midway through the first half.

Dodson and Rocker combined in a one-two before Rocker found space in the box slicing the ball past young City keeper Ben Appledorn.

Brisbane City dominated the first ten minutes of the match but after Wynnum's shock opening goal the home side were always in control.

WYNNUM ROCKS CITY!

City's first half display was arguably their worst performance of the season with the side lacking organisation.

Rocker made City's task of a comeback virtually impossible in the 56th minute when he drove home a header from a corner.

City striker Chris Slater made a welcomed return to the park coming off the bench in the 67th minute in his first game back following a knee injury incurred several weeks ago against the Gold Coast.

City were scheduled to play Bundaberg Waves in a crucial match at home in the second round of the Easter weekend double on Monday and nothing short of three points is needed to regain their place in the top four.

Taringa, who were unlucky to share the points with Lions in round six, showed their fighting spirit to down Mt Gravatt after trailing the visitors 2-1 at half time at Jack Speare Park on Saturday.

Coach John Ogden said the match was a tough battle but believed Taringa deserved the final victory.

Mt Gravatt took the lead at half time following goals from

Darryl Grundy and Simon Pilic with Taringa's solitary response before the break from striker Scott Robertson.



Gold Coast players celebrate. They drew 2-2 with Brisbane City on the weekend.



Miron Bleiberg ... the Lions coach saw his side draw 2-2 with Gold Coast in a shock result.

Skilful midfielder Richard Hilli got Taringa back on levels terms after halftime before new signing Ben Wood put the home side ahead 3-2.

Robertson later picked up his second and Taringa's fourth to keep his side in third place after the seventh round on 13 points, three points adrift of leaders Brisbane Lions who, at time of writing, remained the league's only unbeaten side.



BRISBANE CITY	-	Spencer Park, Newmarket
BRISBANE LIONS	-	Lions Stadium, Richlands
BUNDABERG WAVES	-	Thabeban Sports Complex, Bundaberg
GOLD COAST CITY	-	Southport SC, Ashmore
IPSWICH KNIGHTS	-	Eric Evans Reserve, Bundamba
MT GRAVATT	-	Dittmer Park, Mt Gravatt
ROCHEDALE ROVERS	-	Underwood Park, Rochdale
TARINGA ROVERS	-	Jack Speare Park, Indooroopilly
TOOWOOMBA RAIDERS	-	Gold Park, Toowoomba
WYNNUM	-	Carmichael Park, Tingalpa

ROUND 8

05-04	Mt Gravatt	v	Rochdale Rov	0245
05-04	Toowoomba Utd	v	Wynnum	0245
05-04	Brisbane City	v	B'berg Waves	0245
05-04	Ipswich Knights	v	Brisbane Lions	0245
05-04	Gold Coast	v	Taringa Rovers	0245

ROUND 9

09-04	Rochdale Rov	v	Taringa Rovers	0730
10-04	B'berg Waves	v	Toowoomba Utd	0700
11-04	Gold Coast	v	Ipswich Knights	0245
11-04	Brisbane Lions	v	Brisbane City	0400
11-04	Wynnum	v	Mt Gravatt	0245

ROUND 10

17-04	B'berg Waves	v	Mt Gravatt	0700
18-04	Ipswich Knights	v	Taringa Rovers	0245
18-04	Brisbane Lions	v	Toowoomba Utd	0400
18-04	Gold Coast	v	Brisbane City	0245
18-04	Wynnum	v	Rochdale Rov	0245

ROUND 11

24-04	Mt Gravatt	v	Brisbane Lions	0700
24-04	Rochdale Rov	v	B'berg Waves	0700
25-04	Brisbane City	v	Ipswich Knights	0245
25-04	Toowoomba Utd	v	Gold Coast	0245
25-04	Taringa Rovers	v	Wynnum	0245

RESULTS, TABLES AND THIS WEEK'S ROUND IN QLD

XXXX LEAGUE

	P	L	D	L	G	A	Diff	Pts
Brisbane Lions	7	5	2	0	19	11	8	17
Rochdale Rov	7	5	0	2	20	9	11	15
Taringa Rovers	7	4	1	2	14	6	8	13
B'berg Waves	7	3	2	2	11	10	1	11
Brisbane City	6	3	0	3	11	11	0	9
IPSW Knights	7	3	0	4	10	11	-1	9
Gold Coast	7	2	3	2	12	17	-5	9
Wynnum	7	2	0	5	9	17	-8	6
Mt Gravatt	6	1	2	3	9	13	-4	5
Toowoomba Utd	7	1	0	6	6	16	-10	3

ROUND 7 SCORES

Taringa Rovers	.....4	Mt Gravatt	.....2
Brisbane Lions	.....2	Gold Coast	.....2
B'berg Waves	.....1	IPSW Knights	.....0
Wynnum	.....2	Brisbane City	.....0
Rochdale Rov	.....0	Toowoomba Utd	.....3

DIVISION ONE SOUTH

	P	W	D	L	G	A	Diff	Pts
Rocklea Utd	5	5	0	0	30	9	21	15
Capalaba	5	5	0	0	13	3	10	15
Slacks Creek	7	3	1	3	15	20	-5	10
Souths Utd	6	2	1	3	14	8	6	7
Inala City	6	2	1	3	12	18	-6	7
Beenleigh	6	2	1	3	9	16	-7	7
Redlands Utd	5	1	2	2	9	14	-5	5
Olympic Utd	5	1	0	4	7	13	-6	3
Acacia Ridge	5	0	2	3	5	13	-8	2

ROUND 7 SCORES

Redlands Utd	.....1	Beenleigh	.....4
Inala City	.....2	Souths Utd	.....1
Acacia Ridge	.....1	Capalaba	.....2
Slacks Creek	.....4	Olympic Utd	.....1
Rocklea Utd	bye		

DIVISION ONE NORTH

	P	L	D	L	G	A	Diff	Pts
Albany Creek	6	5	0	1	16	9	7	15
North Star	6	4	0	2	16	10	6	12
Eastern Subs	6	3	2	1	8	5	3	11
Newmarket	6	3	1	2	14	12	2	10
Uni of Qld	6	3	1	2	11	10	1	10
Pine Rivers Utd	6	2	2	2	10	9	1	8
Grange Thistle	7	1	2	4	8	15	-7	5
Mitchelton	5	1	1	3	7	10	-3	4
The Gap	6	0	1	5	14	24	-10	1

ROUND 7 SCORES

Albany Creek	.....3	Newmarket	.....4
Pine Rivers Utd	.....1	North Star	.....2
Grange Thistle1	Eastern Subs0
Mitchelton v The Gap			
(not played)			
Uni of Qld v Bye			

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PREMIER LEAGUE



BLUES TRIUMPH

KINGS GIVEN THE ROYAL TREATMENT

BULLEEN INTER KINGS 1 FAWKNER BLUES 2 (ROUND 9 MATCH)

By Dwyght Tuffnell

Bulleen Inter Kings' hopes of back-to-back Championships took a major blow last Monday night when they were defeated 2-1 by lowly Fawknor Blues.

It was the Kings' second home loss on the trot, after going nearly two years without losing at the Veneto Club.

Fawknor, served superbly in midfield by the evergreen Josip Biskic, made their intentions clear right from the very start when Peter Psarros had a goal disallowed for offside inside the opening 20 seconds.

Santo Emmanuele was denied by a diving Sean Keogh save half a minute later.

Despite the early pressure from the visitors, it was the Kings who took the lead in the 11th minute.

Sava Rusmir crossed from the right hand side into Bulleen striker Vlad Babic who was contested by Blues defenders Paul Ferrante and Tony Schipano — the latter deflected the ball into his own net past the wrong-footed Maurice Gonzalez.

Fawknor got the goal their early pressure demanded four minutes later.

Ivan Duzel played a one-two with Emmanuele, controlled the ball and despite being surrounded, managed to get an inch-perfect shot into the corner of the net.

Fawknor, went ahead in the 25th minute.

Psarros' goal stood this time after he headed in a John Grimaud cross of the underside of the crossbar.

Both sides exchanged opportunities leading into half time and it was surprising that it remained 1-2 at the break.

Bulleen had a catalogue of chances in the first 15 minutes of the second half, Kings leading scorer Danny Gnjdic missed two that he would usually get on target at least.

The Kings' constant attacking was always going to leave themselves open to a counter-attack, and Psarros had the chance to finish them off with three minutes to go.

After beating three players, Psarros measured his shot for the corner but Keogh did extremely well to keep the Kings in the game.

Rusmir had the last shot at a Bulleen equaliser inside stoppage time but his 30 metre effort was met with an acrobatic save from Gonzalez.

Kings: Keogh, Valentice, Stojceviski, Everetts (Guglielmi), Della Rocca, Mazzini, Babic, Waddell (Collina), Gnjdic, Sherifovski, Rusmir.

Blues: Gonzalez, Tramontana, Grimaud, P.Ferrante, Schipano, De Santis (V.Ferrante), Bordinon, Biskic, Emmanuele (Simsek), Duzel (Collins), Psarros.

Referee: Perry Mur

Votes: 3- Biskic (FB), 2- Grimaud (FB), 1- Rusmir (BK)

WESTVALE 0 GREEN GULLY CAVALIERS 5 (ROUND 9 MATCH)

By John Rigas

Westvale slumped to the bottom of the ladder after being hammered 5-0 by Green Gully Cavaliers last Monday night.

The Cavaliers were far too good in the clash of the co-tenants and their win means they close the gap on Port Melbourne Sharks to three points.

Defender Zoran Markovski scored the first goal for Green Gully in the 24th minute when he let fly with a thunderous shot.

Six minutes later, Westvale 'keeper Mike Chatzitrifonos was beaten again, this time by Nick Papadopoulos who was set up by Brandon Vassallo.

The scoreline was then 3-0 in the 63rd minute when Zdravko Atanasovski converted from the penalty spot after Gully striker Zlatko Donev had been fouled in the area.

Seven minutes from time, Tony Neceski made it 4-0 when he headed in Atanasovski's far post cross.

The rout was completed two minutes later, Papadopoulos getting his second after good work from substitute Sonny Sevin.

Westvale: Chatzitrifonos, Hasler, Stubbins, Brown, Medjedovic, McAleer, T.Timotheou (Zach), Karkaletsis (Richards), Goutzioulis, Markovski (H.Timotheou), Cvetkovski.

Cavaliers: Brian, Atanasovski, Markovski, Georgiadis (Spiteri), Azzopardi, Vassallo (Sevin), Papadopoulos, Svigos, Neceski, Suric (Stafrace), Donev.

Referee: Andrew Stacey

Votes: 3- Papadopoulos (GG), 2- Atanasovski (GG), 1- Svigos (GG)

PREMIER LEAGUE NEWS

By Dwyght Tuffnell

* After telling Soccer Weekly a couple of weeks ago that he might not play again, Port Melbourne coach Peter Tsolakis, may be back on the field within the next few weeks.

Tsolakis, who has been plagued with knee injuries, has been training strongly recently and has not been feeling any effects of the problems with his knees.

The Sharks are also set to gain three more players back from injury.

Bill Tsiakos, Tom Sonsini and Alex Efstathiou are all due back in the next couple of weeks.

* Sunshine Georgies have appointed coach John Kanesoulis for the rest of the season.

Kanesoulis, who originally took over in a caretaker capacity when Anthony Cassar parted company with the club, will have the job for the rest of the season rather than the Georgies bringing in someone new.

* Bottom of the table Westvale have been spending big in the last couple of weeks.

After being linked with St Albans striker Harry Karl, the club moved quickly to sign Sash Markovski who was out of favour at Preston Lions.

They've also signed Zoran Cvetkovski from Springvale White Eagles.

* Along with Cvetkovski, the White Eagles recently lost goalkeeper Robert Brian to Green Gully.

Milos Nastic, sacked as coach by the club a couple of weeks ago, has been replaced by former Morwell Falcons coach Bobby McLachlan. McLachlan took over at the club during the week.

And on another positive note for the White Eagles, youngster Rade Culibrk has been named in the Australia under 17 squad for a training camp next month.

* Altona East are another club who have been busy in the transfer market in the last couple of weeks.

They've added Frank and Len Catalano to their squad as well as experienced defender John Dimitrelos from Green Gully.

Their best signing appears to be goalkeeper Sam Frangos from Port Melbourne who has already had a couple of great games between the sticks for the Phoenix.

Frangos, a highly regarded 'keeper in the Premier League, didn't play for Port this year after last season winning their best and fairest award.

TONY SCHIPANO: A MODEL OF LOYALTY

By Dwyght Tuffnell

In a time where loyalty seems to mean nothing and players change clubs at the drop of a hat, one player in the Premier League is an exception to the rule.

Tony Schipano, of Fawknor Blues, has been a stalwart for the club in the Premier League, playing in the competition since 1985 as a 17 year old, but his career with the Blues extends much further than that.

Schipano has been with Fawknor for an amazing 25 years, starting off there way back in 1973 when he turned out for the club's under 7 team.

Last Saturday night the club held a testimonial dinner in his honour and before playing against Bulleen Inter Kings last Monday, the Kings presented him with a plaque to recognise this milestone.

Now 32 and the club's captain, the man known as 'Skippy' says that he has never really been tempted to leave.

"The club have looked after me well" said Schipano. "I always said that if I did leave, it would be to go and play at a higher level."

That almost happened. Back in 1992 Schipano had a terrific year and was invited to Heidelberg United, then in the National League, for trials. Unfortunately though, Schipano broke his leg.

It was at this time too, that Fawknor had made the finals of the Premier League.

Schipano, the club's favourite son, had to sit back and watch as Fawknor made it to the Grand Final, only to lose to arch-rival Bulleen.

"They've been the highlights" said Schipano. "Those derby games against Bulleen, Thomastown and Juventus. They were always special games."

Schipano has played around 360 games in the Premier League, and has seen many changes in that time.

"I think it's gone backwards. There's no promotion to the National League anymore, nothing to play for ... no incentive."

The name Schipano is synonymous with Fawknor Blues Soccer Club.

His father Dominic, along with his three uncles, Giuseppe, Greg and Frank, formed the club in the late 1960s as Fawknor Bakery, playing in the Sunday League. In 1973, the club merged with Fitzroy Azzuri to become the club they are today.

The current Fawknor side is in the relegation zone, but Schipano said he was confident that the club could avoid the drop.

"Everyone around the club is very good. The players and Kenny (Murphy, coach) are positive."

"You go through these slumps every now and then but we'll battle our way out of it."

And battle they did. Against the top side Bulleen Inter Kings, last week, they pulled off a brilliant 2-1 win, with the irrepresible Schipano in the thick of things, as usual.

25 years with one club. Loyalty like that is almost impossible to find these days. Congratulations Tony, Soccer Weekly salutes you.

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ROUND 9 DETAILS

Bulleen Inter Kings 1 (own goal) - Fawknor Blues 2 (Duzel, Psarros)
Westvale 0 - Green Gully Cavaliers 5 (Markovski, Papadopoulos 2, Atanasovski, Neceski).

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Port Melbourne Sharks	9	7	2	0	23	6	23
Green Gully Cavaliers	9	6	2	1	23	13	20
Preston Lions	9	6	0	3	19	9	18
Melbourne Raiders	9	4	2	3	11	11	14
Bentleigh Greens	9	3	4	2	16	11	13
Bulleen Inter Kings	9	3	4	2	13	9	13
Altona Magic	9	4	1	4	15	22	13
Altona East	9	3	2	4	10	15	11
Springvale WE	9	2	3	4	12	12	9
South Dandenong	9	2	3	4	13	15	9
Fawknor Blues	9	2	2	5	12	14	8
St Albans Saints	9	2	2	5	9	16	8
Sunshine Georgies	9	2	2	5	9	19	8
Westvale	9	1	3	5	10	23	

Leading Scorers

11 - Peter Kakos (Port Melb.)
7 - Danny Gnjdic (Bulleen)
5 - Zoran Todorovski (Altona Magic),
Juan Nilo (Bentleigh Greens), Zdravko Atanasovski (Green Gully), Pino Corallo (Melbourne Raiders), Angie Goutzioulis (Westvale).

Pascoe Vale Sportscentre/ABSW

Player of the Year votes

11 - Zlatko Mihajlovic (Springvale WE)
10 - Nick Tsaltas (Port Melb.), Ivan Razov (St Albans),
9 - Steven Bartol (Altona East)
8 - George Tzirtzis (Port Melb.), Warren Spink (Preston)
7 - Paul Donnelly (Altona East), Damian Everetts (Bulleen), Paul Della Rocca (Bulleen), Carlo Villani (South Dandenong), Eric Styczen (Springvale WE).

ROUND 10 (PLAYED YESTERDAY AFTER PRESS)

St Albans Saints v Altona Magic

Fawknor Blues v Westvale

Bentleigh Greens v Bulleen Inter Kings

Altona East v Port Melbourne Sharks

Saturday April 10

South Dandenong v Preston Lions - kick off 3pm at George Andrews Reserve

Sunday April 11

Melbourne Raiders v Sunshine Georgies - kick off 8.15pm

at Epping Soccer Stadium

Monday April 12

Green Gully Cavaliers v Springvale White Eagles - kick off 8.15pm
at Green Gully Reserve



VICTORIAN LEAGUES



CRAZY JOHN'S STATE LEAGUE

DIVISION 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lalor United	2	2	0	0	6	0	6
Heidelberg United	2	2	0	0	5	1	6
Westgate	2	2	0	0	6	3	6
Oakleigh	2	2	0	0	3	0	6
Springvale City	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
Nth Geelong Warriors	2	1	0	1	2	1	3
Richmond	2	1	0	1	1	1	3
Melbourne City	2	1	0	1	4	5	3
Northcote City	2	0	1	1	4	5	1
Doncaster Rovers	2	0	1	1	3	4	1
Western Suburbs	2	0	1	1	1	3	1
Kingston City	2	0	0	2	1	5	0
Werribee City	2	0	0	2	1	5	0
Yarrville Glory	2	0	0	2	0	5	0



ROUND 3

(PLAYED YESTERDAY)

Northcote City v Western Suburbs
Lalor United v Westgate
Oakleigh v Yarrville Glory

Sunday April 11

Springvale City v Heidelberg United
Melbourne City v Doncaster Rovers
North Geelong Warriors v Werribee City
Richmond v Kingston City

DIVISION 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Geelong	2	2	0	0	7	1	6
Knox City	2	2	0	0	6	0	6
Essendon	2	2	0	0	3	0	6
Frankston Pines	2	1	1	0	4	2	4
Thomastown/Regent	2	1	1	0	4	3	4
East Richmond	2	1	1	0	1	0	4
Old Scotch Waverley	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
Cranbourne Comets	2	0	2	0	3	3	2
Frankston Strikers	2	0	1	1	1	2	1
Altona City	2	0	1	1	0	1	1
Satellite City Rovers	2	0	1	1	2	6	1
Diamond Valley Utd	2	0	0	2	2	6	0
Croydon City Arrows	2	0	0	2	0	4	0
Ringwood City	2	0	0	2	0	5	0

ROUND 3

(PLAYED YESTERDAY)

East Richmond v Geelong

Saturday April 10

Satellite City Rovers v Croydon City Arrows
Essendon v Frankston Strikers
Frankston Pines v Altona City
Thomastown/Regent v Diamond Valley United
Knox City v Cranbourne Comets
Ringwood City v Old Scotch Waverley

DIVISION 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Stonnington City	2	2	0	0	6	1	6
South Springvale	2	1	1	0	4	3	4
Mooroolbark	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
Fitzroy City	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
North Coburg United	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
Broadmeadows City	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Williamstown	1	1	0	0	4	3	3
Bell Park	2	1	0	1	4	3	3
Moreland City	2	1	0	1	4	4	3
South Wantirna	2	0	1	1	2	4	1
Laverton Park	2	0	1	1	2	5	1
Banyule City	2	0	0	2	4	6	0
Pascoe Vale	2	0	0	2	0	4	0
Keilor Park	2	0	0	2	0	4	0

ROUND 2

(PLAYED YESTERDAY)

Fitzroy City v Broadmeadows City
Williamstown v North Coburg United

ROUND 3

Saturday April 10

Laverton Park v Stonnington City
Banyule City v Moreland City
North Coburg United v South Springvale
Mooroolbark v Williamstown
Bell Park v South Wantirna
Broadmeadows City v Keilor Park
Fitzroy City v Pascoe Vale

DIVISION 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Langwarrin	2	2	0	0	7	1	6
Sandringham City	2	1	1	0	7	3	4
Croxton Park	2	1	1	0	6	4	4
Geelong Rangers	2	1	1	0	4	2	4
Lyndale United	2	1	1	0	4	3	4
Lalor	1	1	0	0	5	2	3
Keysborough	1	1	0	0	3	0	0
Seaford United	2	1	0	1	3	4	3
Chelsea	2	1	0	1	2	5	3
Melton	2	0	1	1	2	4	1
Clifton Hill United	2	0	1	1	4	7	1
Sunbury United	2	0	0	2	1	3	0
Corio	2	0	0	2	1	6	0
Nunawading City	2	0	0	2	0	5	0

ROUND 1

(PLAYED YESTERDAY)

Keysborough v Lalor

ROUND 3

Saturday April 10

Sunbury United v Clifton Hill United
Croxtton Park v Lyndale United
Chelsea v Seaford United
Langwarrin v Sandringham City
Geelong Rangers v Nunawading City
Keysborough v Melton
Corio v Lalor



PROVISIONAL LEAGUE

DIVISION 1

Round 1

Saturday April 10

Sydenham Park v Monbulk
South Caulfield v North Sunshine Eagles
Morwell Pegasus v Templestowe Eagles
Endeavour United v Dandenong
Brunswick City v Riversdale

Sunday April 11

Mitcham United v Springvale Condors



DIVISION 2 NORTH-WEST

Round 1

Saturday April 10

Ballarat v Somerton City
Elwood City v Hoppers Crossing
Meadow Park v Broadmeadows United
South Yarra v Glenroy
Keon Park v Mill Park
University of Melbourne v Melbourne University



DIVISION 2 SOUTH-EAST

Round 1

Saturday April 10

Dingley City v Braeside United
Waverley Wanderers v Heatherton United
Monash University v Newborough/Yallourn
Doveton v Brandon Park
Noble Park v Clayton
Ashburton v Dandenong Inter

DIVISION 3 NORTH-WEST

Round 1

Sunday April 11

Fleington Falcons v Whittlesea United
Northern United v West Preston
Brimbank City v Watsonia Heights
La Trobe University v Brimbank
Keilor United v Darebin United
North Glenroy v North Reservoir



DIVISION 3 SOUTH-EAST

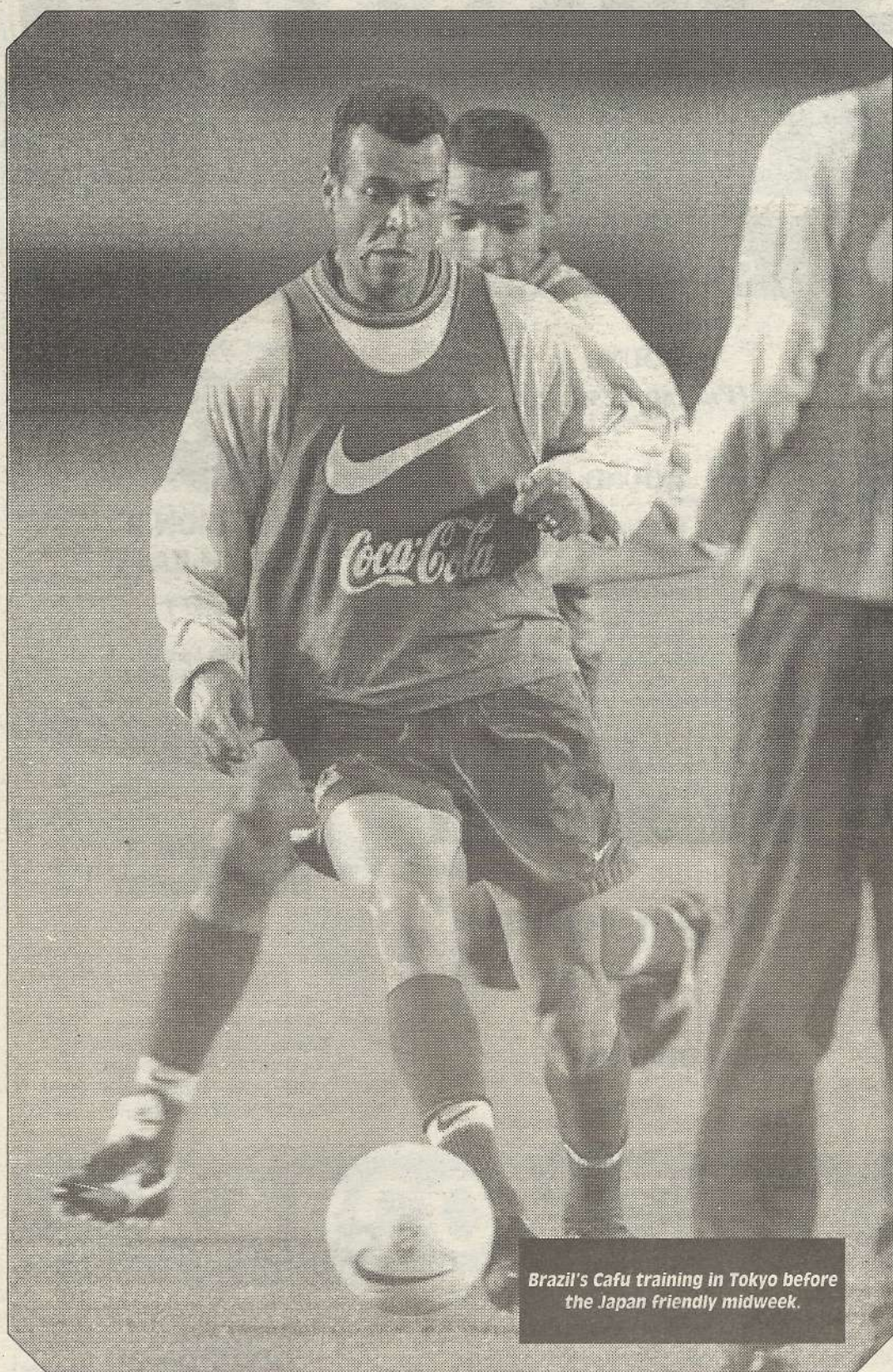
Round 1

Sunday April 11

Beamaris v Newport United
Ivanhoe United v Rowville Eagles
Endeavour Hills v Collingwood City
Noble Park United v North Caulfield
Thornbury United v Parkmore
Old Cambewell Grammar v Moreland United



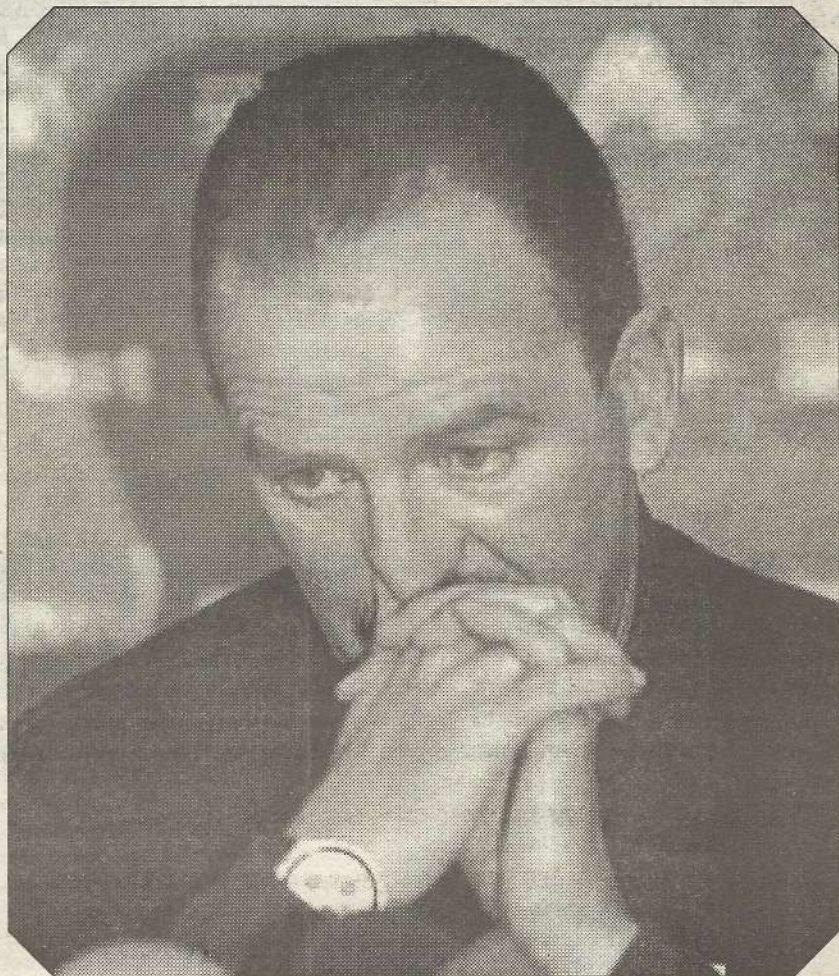
**GLOBAL GAME SPONSORED BY THE WOLLONGONG WOLVES V
MARCONI GAME THIS SUNDAY AT BRANDON PARK**



Brazil's Cafu training in Tokyo before the Japan friendly midweek.



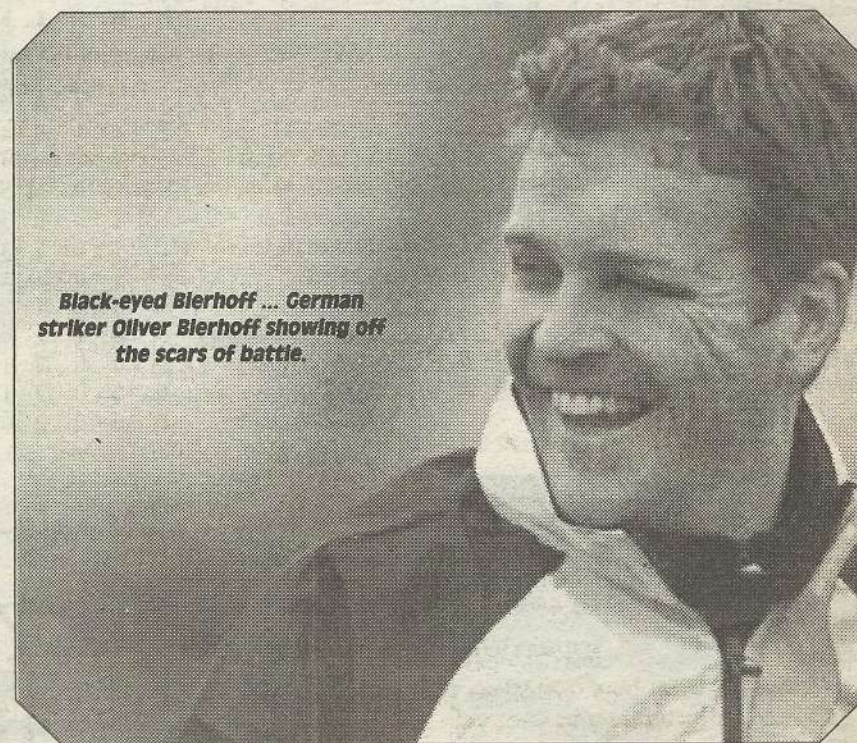
David Beckham and Prince Andrew promoting an anti Child cruelty charity at Wembley before the Poland game.



Black-eyed Bierhoff ... German striker Oliver Bierhoff showing off the scars of battle.



Spain's Raul against Austria. The Austrians' coach Prohaska (right middle) resigned after the game.



WORLD YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS

Nigeria drew the opening game of Nigeria 99 with a 1-1 draw against Costa Rica in front of 37,500 fans in Lagos. The locals opened confidently, as expected, with most of the danger coming from Aghahowa on the right wing — and it was he who got the only goal of the half with a low cross-shot.

Costa Rica's goalie Cruz produced a combination of fine saves and fumbles.

The Nigerians tended to be too arrogant after the break and Costa Rica well deserved their penalty equaliser after goalie Okoye brought down Santana. Nigeria treated the draw like a defeat, Costa Rica like a victory.



Nigeria's Carba against Costa Rica's Allan Melendez.

After the game, Nigerian fans reportedly attacked the bus carrying the team from the stadium to their hotel.

29 shots were attempted in the opening match: 17 by Nigeria, 12 by Costa Rica. The hosts had a much better percentage of shots on target (64.7% against 41.6%) but this was not

enough to beat their opponents.

Nigeria committed much more fouls than Costa Rica (24 to 11) and attempted a large amount of cross passes (33: 23 from the right side, 10 from the left) while Costa Rica attempted only 3.

Scorers:

AGHAHOWA Julius (NGA) 20', MELENDEZ Allan (CR C) 83', pen..

Cautions:

MELENDEZ Allan (CRC) 72', OKOYE Sam (NGA) 74'.

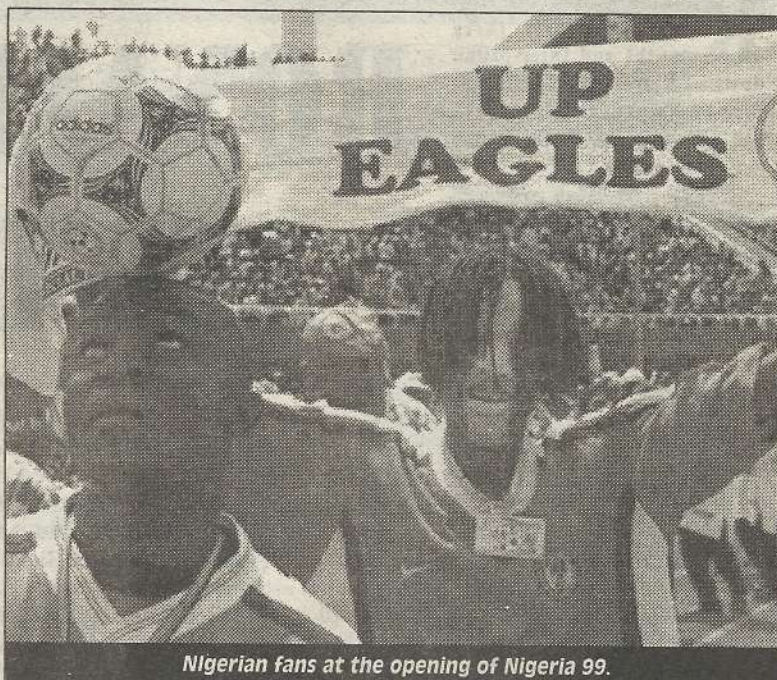
Referee: SHMOLIK Serguey (BLR)

Saturday's Opening Ceremony of the FIFA World Youth Championship was a colourful pageant illustrating the culture of various States of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

The show began with performances by cultural troupes from throughout the country. Then followed a gymnastics display and a march past representatives of the 24 teams competing in the Championship.

At the end of the hour-long ceremony, there was a brief speech from the Local Organising Committee Executive Chairman, Abdulmumini Aminu, and the FIFA President, Sepp Blatter, after which the Nigerian Head of State, General Abdulsalami Abubakar, officially declared the Championship open.

The Nigerian and Costa Rican teams were greeted on the pitch before kick-off by the Head of State and the FIFA President.



Nigerian fans at the opening of Nigeria 99.

The Aussies arrived in Nigeria with a record of 12 wins, 9 draws and 12 losses (39 goals scored and 41 conceded). To date, Australia's best goal scorers are Mark Koussas, Kostas Salapasis and Mark Viduka, each with four goals scored.

AUSSIE ON TECHNICAL COMMITTEE OF ...



For the World Youth Championship, as at every of its competitions, FIFA will rely on a Technical Study Group (TSG) to provide statistics and studies into various aspects of the game (athletic condition of the players, tactical systems used by coaches, overall technical level).

The TSG is mainly responsible for the production and publication of an official report of the event as well as various videos to use at development courses. FIFA recognises only material provided by its TSG as official competition statistics.

The TSG for Nigeria '99 comprises the following former or current coaches:

Jean-Paul BRIGGER (Switzerland) ♦ Charles K. GYAMFI (Ghana)

Dick HOWARD (Canada) ♦ Ka-Ming KWOK (Hong Kong)

Philippe REDON (France) ♦ Jim SELBY (Australia)

Oscar WASHINGTON TABAREZ (Uruguay)

At every FIFA competition, the FIFA Fair Play Award goes to the team with the best record of fair play according to a points system and criteria established by the FIFA Fair Play Committee. In Malaysia in 1997, at the last FIFA World Youth Championship, this honour went to the reigning champions Argentina.

The assessment is based on six criteria by which the teams' fair play performance shall be judged, stressing the positive rather than the negative aspects. As a general rule, maximum points shall only be awarded if the team concerned displays a positive attitude.

In addition to being presented with a symbolic honour in the form of a trophy, the winning team will receive a voucher valued at \$US10,000, which may be exchanged for adidas equipment. The assessment criteria are ...

RED AND YELLOW CARDS

POSITIVE PLAY

The aim of this criterion is to reward attacking play, which appeals to spectators.

RESPECT TOWARDS THE OPPONENT

Players are expected to respect the Laws of the Game, the competition regulations and opponents etc.

RESPECT TOWARDS THE REFEREE

Players are expected to respect the match officials and the decisions they take.

BEHAVIOUR OF THE TEAM OFFICIALS

Coaches and other team officials are expected to encourage the sporting, technical, tactical and ethical standards of their team and to direct the players to behave in accordance with the principles of fair play.

AWARDS ON OFFER

At every FIFA World Cup there is always a number of official special awards being offered. Almost all of them have a long-standing tradition. The three official awards are as follows:

Adidas Golden Shoe Award

In keeping with tradition, the adidas company will present the Golden Shoe Award to the player scoring the highest number of goals.

Assists will only be taken into consideration if two or more players are equal on goals scored. The FIFA Technical Study Group, a member of which will be present at each match, will decide whether an assist is to be counted as such. FIFA will issue updated scorer rankings throughout the tournament which will be distributed to the media and be accessible on the Internet.

Names such as Ramon Diaz (ARG, 1979), Geovani (BRA, 1983) and Oleg Salenko (URS, 1989) have gone down in the history of this award.

Adidas Golden Ball

This Award goes to the outstanding player of the competition, as voted by the media present at the World Cup. The vote is organised at the end of the World Cup by adidas, and the results will be announced after the competition has ended with the support of the FIFA Communications Division.

The list of Award winners includes Diego Maradona (ARG, 1979), Robert Prosinecki (YUG, 1987) and Nicolas Olivera (URU, 1997).

FIFA Fair Play Award

This is awarded to the team with the best record of fair play according to a points system and criteria established by the FIFA Fair Play Committee: there will be periodic standings issued by FIFA for the media's information.

At the last FIFA World Youth Championship in Malaysia in 1997, the Fair Play trophy went to World Champions Argentina, other recent winners being Japan (1995), England (1993), USSR (1991) and USA (1989).

RED LIGHT LADIES OFFSIDE AT RULING!

A group of Nigerian prostitutes have threatened nude protests at World Youth Cup soccer matches after being barred from hotels by tournament organizers, a local newspaper said.

The Prime Sunset evening daily quoted Charity Emevon of the Association of Practicing Prostitutes of Nigeria as saying hundreds of women would march naked through the streets if authorities did not bow to their demand to be able to operate freely.

Nigeria's military government and the local tournament organizing committee have spared no effort to clean up cities where matches will be held from April 3 to 24 to give visitors a good impression of Africa's most populous nation.

"In every country, especially in developed countries, there are prostitutes. It is not a new thing. It is only in Africa or Nigeria that prostitutes are looked at as outcasts," Emevon was quoted as saying.

Compiled by

Soccer Weekly

ITALY

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RIALTO FURNITURE

Ronaldo scored his first goals in nearly three months and Inter Milan downed Fiorentina 2-0 at San Siro on Saturday to help push Lazio six points atop the Italian Serie A standings.

Ronaldo scored both goals with penalties, improving his season total to eight in portions of 12 league matches.

Lazio, held to a goalless home draw by AC Milan in the highlight of the 27th round, moved another point ahead of second-placed Fiorentina while Milan stayed seven points behind in third.

Parma, held to a 1-1 home draw by underdog Cagliari, remained in fourth place, eight points behind Lazio.

In other pre-Easter games, it was: AS Roma 4, Bari 1; Piacenza 4, Udinese 3; Empoli 1, Juventus 0; Perugia 0, Bologna 0; and Vicenza 1, Sampdoria 0.

Ronaldo, recovering from tendinitis in his knees which sidelined him repeatedly this season, converted the first penalty in the 45th minute and capped an outstanding performance which ended Inter's 10-match winless streak.

RONALDO BACK, JUVE AND LAZIO FALTER

The Brazilian striker showed power and put Fiorentina's defence in trouble every time he was fed by Roberto Baggio.

Ronaldo, who barely missed the net with a lob in the 20th minute, earned the first penalty when Fiorentina's defender Giulio Falcone fouled him close to the net.

He converted with a precise right-footed drive as Inter celebrated the debut of coach Luciano Castellini — Inter's third coach this season following Gigi Simoni and Mircea Lucescu.

Inter was granted the second penalty when Chilean veteran striker Ivan Zamorano was fouled by goalkeeper Francesco Toldo following a quick counterattack.

Ronaldo was not Inter's only hero. French keeper Sebastien Frey, replacing suspended regular Gianluca Pagliuca, made several saves from Fiorentina's strikers Gabriel Batistuta and Edmundo.

Batistuta, the leading scoring leader with 19 goals, hit the bar with a powerful free kick in the first half. Roberto Baggio countered by hitting the post in the second half, also from a free kick.

The shock Empoli victory was Juventus' first loss under new coach Carlo Ancelotti.

Juventus rested several key players ahead of Wednesday's first-leg European Champions Cup semi-final against Manchester United.

The Turin team slipped to seventh place, 15 points behind Lazio and out of contention for the title and possibly a chance at the top four places that earn Euro Champions League berths. Lazio were held 0-0 at home to AC Milan on Saturday but still increased their Serie A lead to six points with seven matches left.

Lazio's draw halted a run of eight successive wins at the Olympic stadium but the leader's still have a club record of 17 league matches without defeat.

AC Milan remained third, a point behind Fiorentina and just ahead of Parma, who drew disap-

Olympic stadium but the linesman's flag was already raised for offside.

The rest of the half was dominated by the home side, who won eight corners without reply, but Milan goalkeeper Christian Abbiati was in fine form to deny Vieri and Sergio Conceicao.

After the break, Lazio continued to lay siege to the Milan area but their celebrated front line of Vieri and Marcelo Salas rarely looked like finding a way past outstanding defenders Paolo Maldini and Alessandro Costacurta.

In the dying minutes, Germany's Oliver Bierhoff and Croat Zvonimir Boban both squandered chances to steal all three points for the visitors, whose failure to gain ground on the leaders makes their own title hopes look increasingly remote.

With Lazio drawing, Parma looked destined to revive their own championship chances when Croat Mario Stanic headed home Enrico Chiesa's corner in the 18th minute for a 1-0 lead over Cagliari.

But the home side were left to rue poor finishing when Luigi Sartor brought down Patrick Mbomba in the area in the 57th and Roberto Muzzi converted his 15th goal of the season from the penalty spot to salvage a fortuitous draw for the visitors.

European Cup semi-finalists Juventus had midfielder Alessio

Tacchinardi sent off as they slipped to their first defeat in seven matches under new manager Carlo Ancelotti at bottom side Empoli.

Ironically, the 27th-minute winner was scored by Stefano Bianconi, who a year ago had a goal controversially disallowed against Juventus after the referee ruled his header had failed to cross the line.

Television pictures later showed it was valid. At the bottom of the table, 1991 champions Sampdoria dropped back into relegation trouble after losing 1-0 to fellow strugglers Vicenza for whom Uruguayan Marcelo Otero scored a 33rd minute winner.



Ronaldo with Fiorentina's Oliveira.



Christian Vieri against AC Milan. The former Sydney junior has also bought a business in Sydney's Darling Harbour.

pointingly 1-1 at home to Cagliari.

AS Roma won 4-1 at Bari to end 12 months without an away win and climbed to fifth — but international midfielder Luigi Di Biagio, scorer of his side's second goal, was sent off in injury time and will miss this week's derby with Lazio.

Veteran defender Pietro Vierchowod, 40 next week, was on the scoresheet as struggling Piacenza twice recovered from two goals down to defeat sixth-placed Udinese 4-3 with a late strike from Paolo Cristallini.

Lazio's Italy striker Christian Vieri had the ball in the net in the second minute in front of 70,000 at the



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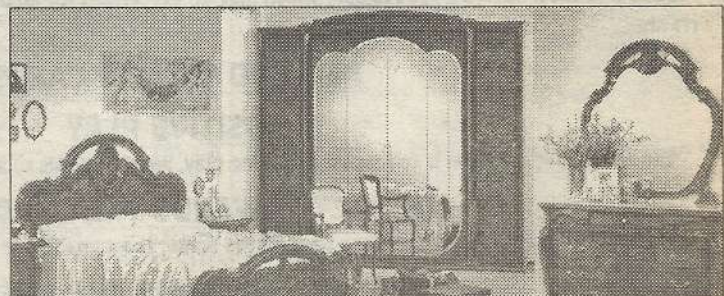


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EUROPE

Soccer Weekly

PAOLO STILL PERFETTO AFTER ELEVEN YEARS

Paolo Maldini celebrated the 11th anniversary of his international debut last Wednesday when he captained Italy against Belarus in a European championship qualifier.

Maldini, the most-capped player in the Italian squad, made his debut in the Croatian port city of Split in a friendly against the former Yugoslavia on March 31, 1988.

The AC Milan defender has since appeared in three World Cup finals and collected 98 caps, just 14 fewer than the most-capped Italian player of all-time—former goalkeeper and national team coach Dino Zoff.

"It's been 11 years exactly and the world has changed a lot since then," Maldini told Gazzetta dello Sport newspaper.

The 30-year-old said he and his teammates were stunned when the mainly Croatian crowd heckled the Yugoslav national team in that 1988 match.

"We were speechless, we didn't understand, we thought it must be some club rivalry," he said of the ethnic tensions that later exploded into open war. "But a few years later, unfortunately, we all understood."

Italy had yet to drop a point in a competitive match since Zoff took over last year before the Belarus match where a win would have virtually assured the Azzurri a place in the finals, which the three-time world champions have never won.



Paolo Maldini ...11 years in the national side and still perfect for the Azzurri.

Sadly, the 1-1 draw against Belarus keeps things in the balance for the moment in their group. They will need all of Maldini's experience to guide them through towards the European Championships next year.

SPANISH LEAGUE REJECT LOOKING TO SERIE A

Struggling Brazilian winger Denilson is dreaming of a move to Italy, possibly within the next year.

The world's most expensive footballer, who has failed to impress at Real Betis since his \$35 million summer move from Sao Paulo, said he will

not consider a move within Spain when the time comes for him to leave the Seville-based club.

"The majority of footballers have their dreams and mine is to play in Italy," Denilson told reporters.

"I don't know exactly when that will be, whether it will be within a year or in three years' time, but that's definitely my dream."

Igor Netto, who led the Soviet Union to their two biggest soccer triumphs, has died after a long illness at the age



Denilson...dreaming of a move to Serie A.

of 69, Russian media reported.

Netto captained the Soviet Union to victory in the 1960 European championship in Paris and the 1956 Olympic final in Melbourne. He also played in the 1958 and 1962 World Cups.

ALL STEAM AHEAD FOR EURO 2000 JOURNEY

Euro 2000 co-hosts Belgium were whistled and jeered off the pitch again after a deserved 1-0 defeat by African Nations' Cup champions Egypt.

Belgium, who were also jeered on Saturday after losing to Bulgaria, have now been beaten 1-0 in four successive warm-up matches for next year's European championship finals and scored just once in six friendlies.

Hazem Imam tipped the ball over goalkeeper Ronny Gaspard into the empty goal in the 14th minute after picking up a brilliant through-ball from Ahmed Hassan.

Belgium had little to offer in the first half and Nader El Sayed, goalkeeper of Belgian champions Club Brugge, easily kept his goal safe after the break.

"When you're 1-0 behind and you're unable to score, resentment increases," Belgian deputy coach Eddy Snelders said of the fans' disapproval.

All eight stadiums for the 2000 European championship finals will be ready by the end of May, organizers said.

There have been building delays in Belgium, championship co-hosts with the Netherlands, and Antwerp was removed from the list of venues because of problems there last year.

But tournament director Alain Courtois said the stadium in Liege would open on Tuesday, while those in Bruges and Charleroi would be complete by late May.

"This means, as promised, we will be ready more than a year ahead of the tournament," Courtois said.

He said the championship also appeared in sound financial shape, with seven main corporate sponsors signed up.

Euro 2000's accommodation agency has already booked almost 15,000 hotel rooms, while staffing

will increase sharply in summer with the appointment of some 2,500 local workers.

There are no plans for a pre-tournament but the first two of a string of "test matches" have been lined up — Netherlands vs. Belgium on September 4 and Belgium vs. Morocco on September 7.

"The boat is ready and it is about to leave," Courtois said.

Earlier, Euro 2000 board member Jeu Sprengers said he was encour-

aged by the progress of Europe's leading traditional soccer powers at the weekend when Italy, Spain, Germany and England were among the winners.

The qualification of all the continent's major footballing nations would provide a comfortable financial cushion.

And the organizers honoured former Dutch coach Rinus Michels and Belgian ex-international Paul Van Himst with the tournament's first ticket application forms.

Michels said he believed the final would be between France and the Netherlands. Van Himst said his side should reach the second round.

As fans got their first chance to apply for Euro 2000 tickets last week, organizers pledged fair treatment and reasonable prices for all.

"From now, everyone, wherever they live — in Australia or Austria, South Holland or Charleroi — has the same chance of buying a ticket," said Euro 2000 board secretary Harry Been.

Euro 2000 will be the first major soccer tournament since the 1998 World Cup finals in France where about 65 percent of the 2.5 million tickets were sold on the French market, creating a worldwide uproar and a thriving black market.

"After France, this is a very sensitive element," tournament director Alain Courtois said of the ticketing policy. "We want to draw lessons from what happened previously."

Been said 34 percent of the tournament's 1.2 million tickets will be sold to the general public and 34 percent to fans of participating nations.

Prices range from 30 euros (\$32) for the cheapest seats at group matches to 238 euros (\$255) for the most expensive ticket for the July 12 final in Rotterdam.

Five percent of tickets will be sold as part of hospitality packages including meals, guaranteed parking and other red-carpet treatment.

The remaining tickets

will be distributed to sponsors, the media and European and world soccer federations.

Until May 7, fans can apply for the first 400,000 tickets available for the 31-match tournament, which is being jointly hosted by the Netherlands and Belgium.

In an attempt to clamp down on scalping, fans can only apply for two tickets per match and each ticket will bear the name of the person who plans to use it.

Allocation of tickets will only begin after the May 7 application period closes. If a match is oversubscribed, organizers will hold a draw to decide who gets a ticket.

The system, which has

already won European Commission backing, is aimed at preventing ticketing problems that plagued France '98.

The World Cup in France also was heavily criticized for offering only 8 percent of tickets to each team involved in a particular match. At Euro 2000 national federations will get 16 percent of tickets for their matches.

The second phase of sales—for tickets not sold during phase one, begins May 7 on a first-come, first-serve basis.

The final phase—when fans of participating teams can buy their tickets—begins after the Dec. 12 draw when the tournament's final lineup is known.

Euro 2000, which runs from June 10-July 2, will be the first major sporting event organized in two nations. The games will be played in eight stadiums, four in the Netherlands and four in Belgium. The host nations automatically qualify.

NOTE: Tickets can be applied for via Euro 2000's website (www.euro2000.org) or UEFA's site (www.uefa.com/euro2000). Application forms can also be obtained from national soccer federations or by writing to: Euro 2000 Foundation, Ticketing department, PO Box 70028, 3000LK Rotterdam, the Netherlands.



Belgium fans: their disapproval of the national side is increasing after a 1-0 loss to Egypt, their fourth consecutive 1-0 defeat.

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EUROPE

Soccer Weekly

EURO LEAGUES WRAP

Fabrizio Ravanelli, captain for the night with France's Laurent Blanc rested, bagged the winner as Olympique Marseille won impressively 2-1 away to Monaco to go top of the French league championship.

The Italian managed to skip through the Monaco offside trap three minutes into the second half to take a ball from substitute midfielder Robert Pires and beat World Cup keeper Fabien Barthez with a neat chip.

Ravanelli, who joined Florian Maurice as Marseille's joint top scorer with 12 league goals, said: 'We played really well. This was an essential match for us before playing Bologna.'

Pires said: 'Now we must concentrate immediately on Bologna because in that match the mental factor will be vital.'

Marseille, are at home to Bologna in the first leg of the UEFA Cup semi-finals tonight (Tue).

Guinean striker Titi Camara put Marseille in front in the 14th minute, also in a movement perfectly timed to spring the Monaco offside trap.

Camara was on the halfway line when he ran on to a through ball from Frederic Brando and slid the ball past the advancing Barthez as he entered the box.

Nigeria's World Cup winger Victor Ikpeba equalised for Monaco just before the half hour when he took a pass from Ludovic Giuly and shot across goalkeeper Stephane Porato and inside the far post.

Marseille played an uncharacteristic 4-4-2 with only two strikers, Ravanelli and Camara, as all their outfield French internationals did not start the match.

Sound in defence against a fighting Monaco, who were defending a seven-match unbeaten record since Claude Puel took over as coach from Jean Tigana, they hit hard on the break.

In the dying minutes and with Monaco going all out for an equaliser, substitute Maurice had three chances to increase Marseille's lead but Barthez foiled him on two occasions.

In the other, Maurice's fine lob from a tight angle on the right sailed just over the bar.

Barthez also made a good save in the second half from a fine long-distance shot by Marseille's Brazilian left back Edson.

Monaco lost ground in the race for third place as Rennes, 3-0 winners at bottom club Sochaux, leapt over them into fourth place.

'We started badly and they were trickier than us,' Monaco defender Martin Djetou said.

Argentine striker Julio Cruz scored both goals in Feyenoord's 2-0 win away at AZ Alkmaar on Friday to keep his club well on top in the Dutch first division.

But the Rotterdamers ended the match with 10 men after striker Bonaventure Kalou was sent off in the 74th minute for a foul on defender Abdelkarim El-Hadrioui.

Feyenoord still looked shaken after their recent 4-1 hammering by Willem II Tilburg and failed to impress against AZ, the only team to have beaten them at home this season.

But they took the lead in the final seconds of the first half when Cruz scored from short range.

Cruz hit his second, and his 14th of the season, in the 73rd minute, when his shot went between the legs of keeper Oscar Moens after he had cut through the defence in a one-two combination with Paul Bosvelt.

Feyenoord have 61 points from 25 matches, 11 more than second placed Vitesse Arnhem and are well on course for their 14th league title.



PSC's Gravelaine against Montpellier (white shirt).

Brilliant keeper Oliver Kahn saved a penalty to deny Borussia Dortmund a win over runaway German first division leaders Bayern Munich.

Bayern had recovered from two goals down to level the match at 2-2 when Kahn stopped midfielder Lars Ricken's 73rd minute spot kick. Each team had a player sent off.

Bayern had won their last eight league matches without conceding a goal and Kahn had not been beaten for a Bundesliga record of 736 minutes when Ricken profited from a blunder by defender Michael Tarnat to set up Heiko Herrlich for the opening goal from close range in the 14th minute.

Herrlich made it 2-0 in the 32nd minute, racing into the box to score after Kahn had failed to clear a shot by midfielder Christian Nerlinger.

Bayern, playing their last match before visiting Dynamo Kiev for the first leg of their European Cup semi-final on Wednesday, were reduced to 10 men four minutes later, Ghanaian defender Samuel Kuffour receiving his marching orders for a tackle from behind on Ricken.

Dortmund defender Stefan Reuter followed Kuffour off after a second bookable offence in the 51st minute.

Substitute Alexandre Zickler hauled Bayern back into the match from a Carsten Jancker pass in the 58th minute and Jancker equalised in the 63rd.

'A draw like this is as good as a win,' said Kahn. 'We played really badly in the first half but in the second half we raised the level of our game.'

Dortmund coach Michael Skibbe was far from happy.

'I can't be satisfied with the result,' he said. 'We played really well in the first half but we should have kept the pressure on them after Kuffour was sent off.'

The match was a special occasion for Bayern coach Ottmar Hitzfeld who steered Dortmund to victory in the European Cup in 1997 and then became their sports director before moving to Bayern at the start of the season.

Hitzfeld was cheered by a capacity crowd of nearly 70,000 when he entered the stadium. 'I was really moved,' he said. 'The fans here are fantastic.'

By Daryl Katz

The UEFA Champions League enters the semi-final stage tomorrow night with four of the continent's most powerful clubs remaining in contention.

Manchester United host Juventus and Bayern Munich visit Dynamo Kiev in first-leg ties, with all four aware that they are just 180 minutes from the final of the most prestigious club competition in world soccer.

Alex Ferguson and his Manchester United side have reached the semifinal stage for the second time in three seasons, having lost out to eventual champions Borussia Dortmund in 1997.

They will be determined this time to emulate Sir Matt Busby and his side of 1968 who appeared in the European Cup final at Wembley, defeating Benfica 4-1.

United have some fitness problems. Jaap Stam injured an ankle while on international duty with Holland, while there is once again some concern for Ryan Giggs who has suffered a recurrence of a hamstring injury.

Both are likely to take their place on Wednesday however, despite having missed United's 1-1 Premiership draw at Wimbledon last Saturday.

Ferguson will again rely on David Beckham to supply the ammunition for his prolific strike pair, comprising Andy Cole and the competition's top scorer Dwight Yorke. Roy Keane will as usual be the fulcrum of the side while England hat-trick hero Paul Scholes will provide the creative inspiration in central midfield.

Juventus find themselves chasing a berth in a fourth consecutive Champions League final, but are currently less dominant domestically than they have been in recent seasons.

Languishing fifteen points off the pace in Serie A, Juventus lost 1-0 at bottom club Empoli on the weekend.

While Carlo Ancelotti has injected new enthusiasm into the team since taking over from Marcello Lippi, they clearly miss the influence of injured striker Alessandro del Piero.

Juve struggled in the group stages of the competition,

liant Ukrainians of Dynamo Kiev.

Dynamo coach Valery Lobanovsky has assembled a powerful side, spearheaded by the formidable striking combination of Andrei Shevchenko and Sergei Rebrov. They are currently joint top of the Ukrainian league after being held to a draw on the weekend by Tavria



Carlo Ancelotti watches as his Juve loses to lowly Empoli last Saturday.

Simferopol.

Dynamo underlined their pedigree last month when they eliminated seven time European champions and current holders Real Madrid from the competition.

Shevchenko was hailed as a national hero following the second leg of the quarterfinal, in which he scored both goals in a 2-0 victory.

Six time Ukrainian champions, and the most successful former Soviet club in European competition, Dynamo always prove a difficult proposition in front of a capacity crowd of 85000, with matches often played in freezing temperatures.

Bayern Munich are well equipped, however, to handle this pressure. They have a fine European record and

CHAMPIONS' LEAGUE
SEMIS PREVIEW

drawing their first five matches before making heavy weather of their quarterfinal victory over Olympiakos, securing victory only via a late Antonio Conte away goal.

The good news for the Italians is that their French superstar Zinedine Zidane is likely to take his place after being absent with injury from the French team for its recent Euro 2000 qualifiers.

Juve will as usual be formidable in defence, with a likely centreback pairing of Ciro Ferrara and Uruguayan Paolo Montero.

Striker Filippo Inzaghi is also in good form, scoring regularly since his return from injury and performing well for the Italian national side.

While United improved their poor record against Italian sides with a quarterfinal elimination of Inter Milan, the head to head record between these two sides heavily favours Juventus.

The clubs have met eight times in UEFA competition, with United winning just twice. They first met in the UEFA Cup second round in 1977, where Juventus triumphed 3-1 on aggregate, and again in the 1983/84 Cup Winners Cup semifinal, with Juve the winner 3-2 on aggregate.

In 1996/97 and again in 1997/98, United and Juventus found themselves in the same group at the league stage of this competition. The Italian side have held the upper hand, winning three of the four matches 1-0 while losing once, 3-2 at Old Trafford.

Last month's 1-1 draw against Inter was the first time United have emerged from a fixture in Italy with anything other than a defeat. If they are to progress, United must secure a substantial buffer in the opening leg in Manchester.

The second semifinal sees the dominant German club, Bayern Munich, meet the unfashionable yet bril-

are currently in sparkling domestic form.

Spurred on by the timeless Lothar Matthaus and a rejuvenated Stefan Effenberg, Bayern currently find themselves 15 points clear at the top of the German Bundesliga despite being held 2-2 on Saturday by 1997 European champions Borussia Dortmund.

Their form is such that they would prove a match for any side, and they easily disposed of fellow German club Kaiserslautern 6-0 on aggregate in a one-sided quarterfinal.

The club and its supporters seem convinced that the time is right for a return to the pinnacle of European football, last reached under Franz Beckenbauer in the mid-1970s.

Bayern currently have some injury concerns. French fullback Bixente Lizarazu is out for at least nine weeks and will miss the semifinal, while Brazilian striker Giovane Elber is out with a knee injury for the remainder of the season.

The German giants have reached two European Cup finals since their last victory in 1976, losing out to Aston Villa in 1982 and FC Porto in 1987.

Bayern will be determined to return to this year's final for another attempt at the ultimate prize.

Bayern and Dynamo have met twice before in UEFA competition. In the 1976/77 European Cup, Dynamo defeated Bayern 2-1 on aggregate, but the Germans gained revenge in the 1994/95 Champions League with two victories, 1-0 at home and 4-1 away.

The rewards of success in this tournament are significant and the quality of play is high as some of the biggest talents in world soccer strive for the right to call themselves champions of Europe.

The only certainty at this stage is that two worthy adversaries will line up for the final at Barcelona's Nou Camp stadium in May.

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UK

Soccer Weekly

MAN UTD OVERPAID?

YOU CAN PUT YOUR HOUSE ON IT!

Next time a Northern Spirit, South Melbourne or Perth Glory fan complains about their players being overpaid showponies, spare a thought for the world's most successful club, Manchester United.

Not content with paying their players annual wages that could pay off the foreign debt of a small country, they have outraged their fans by raising season ticket prices and then claiming the decision was taken to fund the lavish lifestyles of their millionaire players!

Supporters condemned the price increase and their anger will be compounded by the revelation that £1.3million has been spent by the Old Trafford club on buying luxury homes for their players.

It is understood that four houses were bought by the club as part of packages to lure players to Old Trafford. Their purchase is innocuously listed under capital expenditure in the club's six-monthly accounts.

Former Old Trafford manager Tommy Docherty said he was astonished that players earning up to £30,000 a week needed to have houses bought for them.

The accounts reveal that the wage bill for players has risen by around £3m to £16.8m for the last six months and Docherty said supporters were being exploited.

'I cannot believe this,' he said. 'Do the players not earn enough money to buy their own houses? I would have thought that earning £30,000 a week would enable them to do that, but clearly not.'

'It basically comes down to the supporters buying the houses for the players, which is an absolute disgrace. So some of the players are not even having to fork out for a mortgage. That is quite astonishing.'

'It's bad enough for a club of United's stature to raise season ticket prices but then to discover that they are actually buying houses for players earning millions of pounds is quite unbelievable.'

'What is going to happen next? Is the club going to start buying food for the players? Will the players want the supporters to take to the pitch and play for them? You just wonder where it's all going to end.'

John Bick of Financial Dynamics, the company that handles United's financial affairs, said the practice of buying houses for players was quite normal in the modern game.

'This sort of thing is part of the overall package that players receive these days,' he said.

'It costs a lot of money to bring foreign players to England and some of these packages can be very high. That's the reality.'

City analysts also indicated that if the £623m BSKyB takeover falls through, United may consider capping their players' wages to ensure funding for their £30m stadium expansion and new £20m training ground.

Season ticket prices at Old Trafford will rise by £2 a game across the board next season and chairman Martin Edwards claimed the decision had been taken to combat the club's rising wage demands, among other factors.

But United supporters condemned the price hike and pointed to the pledge made by BSKyB chief executive Mark Booth that ticket prices



It's all a long way from players having a loan of a Ford Anglia and free golf club membership.

would not rise to pay for their proposed takeover of the club.

United fan leader Lee Hodgkiss said: 'This rise is a scandal and we are very aware that Mark Booth promised to freeze ticket prices until the year 2000.'

And Man Utd wonder why so many fans of other clubs have a strong dislike for them!

Brazil's new head coach Wanderley Luxemburgo has a novel idea to get his team back on top of the world: He's going to watch Manchester United.

Luxemburgo, who succeeded Mario Zagallo after Brazil's 3-0 defeat by France in the World Cup final last July, said he was a big fan of Alex Ferguson's treble-chasing team after watching them regularly on television.

'I like their play so much,' Luxemburgo told Japan's Daily Yomiuri during Brazil's two-match tour of the Far East.

'I've seen them on TV and now I want to watch a match so I can learn more about the English game.'

So Luxemburgo is going to watch the first leg of the European Cup semifinal against Juventus.

'I think it's a good game to see because Manchester United is the best team in England and Juventus is one of the top in Italy,' added the 46-year-old former Corinthians manager.

'I am sure I can learn something from Manchester United. I like their tactics during a match and the movement of the players on the field.'

GEORDIES IN EUROPE

They'll be toasting their Newky Broon Ale after this UEFA decision. Newcastle were told they had qualified for Europe as FA Cup winners - despite the fact that they do not play their semi-final with Tottenham until Sunday. The ridiculous situation was ratified by UEFA following a series of enquiries over who would qualify for next season's UEFA Cup.

England's three places in the new competition will go to the team finishing fourth in the Premiership, the



Worthington Cup winners and the FA Cup holders.

But with Tottenham already qualified by their Worthington Cup triumph over Leicester, and with UEFA assuming that the other semi-finalists Arsenal and Manchester United are guaranteed a top-four finish, Ruud Gullit's side were told that they will be deemed to have qualified via the FA Cup.

The ruling was confirmed in a statement from UEFA headquarters in Nyon, Switzerland, which added: 'That is how the regulations stand and it would be patently unfair to change them a few weeks before the end of the campaign.'

UEFA's decision will be a massive blow for the Premiership clubs hoping a fifth-place finish would bring them a European reward.

But Newcastle spokesman Graham Courtney was 'delighted'. He added: 'I'm sure Ruud, the team and the fans would love to go all the way and win the Cup as well to get in by the right route but that's brilliant news.'

Peter Taylor, one of the two remaining survivors of the Glenn Hoddle regime, is losing his job as England Under 21 coach.

The former Tottenham and Crystal Palace winger heard the worst from FA technical director Howard Wilkinson last week but he kept the news from his players, who gave him the best result of his three-year reign last Friday when they beat Poland 5-0.

Wilkinson had offered Taylor a lesser post, coaching various England sides. Taylor rejected the offer, leaving only goalkeeping coach Ray Clemence from the Hoddle era. Wilkinson said:

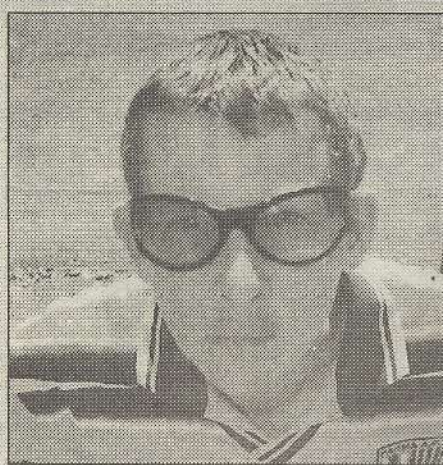
'Peter chose to decline on the basis that he wanted to retain the post of manager of the England Under 21 team on a permanent basis. In the circumstances it was agreed he would leave after the Bulgaria game in June.'

Taylor said yesterday. 'I have no bitterness. A new man comes in and the old guard go. It's a pity because we had a brilliant staff and we've got a great bunch of players.'

The remaining 15 months of Taylor's contract will be paid up and he has agreed a settlement with the FA.

He added: 'I feel sad to be giving it all up and not being able to see it through to the finals. I'm very disappointed but it gives me time to look around for another job.'

UK WITH CRAZY CRAIG WILSON



Auntie Beeb issued a hasty apology to all. A minion had mistakenly booked kids TV presenter Tommy Boyd, a breakfast radio DJ, and former dolphin trainer.

A case of mistaken identity can happen quite easily. Ever seen Dennis Bergkamp in the same room as Butthead? Thought not. Could they by any chance be related?

Talking of MTV, did you realise that the terrace anthem "We'll Support You Ever More" is based on the hymn "Guide Me Oh Thou Great Redeemer"? This was brought to our attention by the current issue of "Match of the Day" magazine. The mag sheds light on the origins of many of the Crazy crew's favourite beer drinking songs.

When we're in the middle of "Oh Kressy Kressy/Kressy Kressy Kressy Marusic" we are actually utilising a tune by Chicory Tip, the 70s band with too much eye make-up who took "Son of My Father" to number one in 1972. "We Will Follow the Spirit/the Glory" etc., was written by Sir Edward Elgar with very different, though equally rabble rousing lyrics in mind.

"Bye Bye Blackbird" and "Winter Wonderland" have become beautifully transformed into "Can You Hear the Olympic/United/Melbourne Sing", and "Walking in a Breakers/Strikers Wonderland" respective-

The Crazy office recently took on a work experience lad, Zbigniew. Big Wisla Krakow fan. While his tea making skills are legendary - this boy knows his way round a samovar - though his knowledge of the Australian game leaves something to be desired.

He thinks. Still, Ziggy's mistakes are put into perspective by an intern at the BBC. A primary purveyor of airwave soccer coverage, the station sent a gofer out to book Celtic defender Tommy Boyd for a live interview. They wanted an expert opinion on Scotland's Euro 2000 campaign.

Within seconds of going to air, it became apparent that Tommy knew absolutely nothing about football, and worse, was a Sassanach. "Can you hear me?" asked Tommy. "The kids are on the computer and I've got the radio on in the other room."

The interview became increasingly confused and the producer was forced to pull the spot. Top brass at

ly. Who says football fans are an uncultured lot? John Philip Sousa's "The Stars and Stripes Forever" is better known as "Here We Go/Here We Go/Here We Go" and "We're Going to Win the League" is from an 18th century French hymnal.

Here in the Crazy Cabin we're working on new lyrics for "If You Tolerate This, Your Children Will Be Next" by the Manic Street Preachers. We may be some time.

When the latest issue of Groundtastic [75 Littlebury Green, Basildon, Essex SS13 1RF, England] comes tumbling out of the Crazy post box, there's usually a fight to grab it. One of the more bizarre English fanzines, Groundtastic features architectural reports on obscure European soccer grounds.

They've alerted us to a Battle Royale (or Battle Quarter Pounder as it's known in the USA) between Great Yarmouth Town and Milton Keynes City.

The dispute is over who owns the oldest stand in British football. For years Yarmouth held on to the belief that their wrought iron and wood stand - an architectural cross between the Eiffel Tower and the QVB - was built in 1904. Milton Keynes hurled themselves into the fray with a claim that their historic grandstand was five years older.

With the decaying erections slated for demolition, National Heritage cash was required, and a case for their antiquity made. Yarmouth were thereby stung into action by Keynesian claims and spent long nights at the library blowing away the dust. They discovered that their stand was actually opened in 1889 - ten years earlier than commonly thought. The club now intend to launch an appeal to restore the edifice to its former glory.

Milton Keynes remain unconvinced. "We'd be happy to see the evidence" said Managing Director Stuart Collard. "We'd love to speak to any man who was in the Great Yarmouth Stand when it was officially opened - we could do with a new centre-forward".



Butthead



Bergkamp ... think about it.



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SUPPORTERS' CLUBS

Far from home? Homesick without your home team? Soccer Weekly keeps you up to date with your Australian supporters clubs.

Club: West Bromwich Albion

Contact: Jeremy Barnes

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When I first came over there was already a Baggies supporters club, but I didn't become a member. Then just as I was ready to join, the previous bloke jacked it in, so I took over.

I'm from Marston Green, a suburb of Birmingham, but our members are from all over Australia and New Zealand. At last count there were 30 of us. There are Australian members who joined the club having never been to West Brom, though a few have been over since.

I publish a quarterly members magazine with cuttings, reports from the internet etc. I did a historical one recently with pictures and articles from old "Shoot" magazines. We get together every once in a while. I went up to Sydney recently and we had a night out at a curry house in Newtown. And I'm planning to go over to Perth to meet up with the guys over there.

We've sponsored players kit three years in a row, but we're giving up next season. We're like a jinx on good young players. As soon as we sponsor them they get injured.

When "Fantasy World Cup" was on last year, many would have had the misfortune to hear Jeff Astle sing. He was one of our greatest ever centre-forwards, though he's better remembered for his miss against West Germany in 1970.

And Frank Skinner is a West Brom fan too, so when he came out for the Melbourne Comedy Festival a few years ago, I wore my Baggies shirt and sat right at the front. "I'll see you later" he said when he came out, and we had a long chat and a beer after the gig.



Email Crazy Craig at magicsponge@hotmail.com

Compiled by

UK

Soccer Weekly

'BEACH BUM' GINOLA TURNS THE OTHER CHEEK!

David Ginola does receive his fair share of fouls, but as for the claim that he is a diver, well stats may disprove this.

According to the Carling Opta Index, the number-crunchers' guide to English football's wasters and wizards, Ginola's reputation as a diver is unfair.

He does get kicked — more than 100 times this season alone — and Tottenham's galloping Gaul will not, in all likelihood, escape today's Worthington Cup final rematch without a few bruises as souvenirs.

Yet Ginola regards these protection rackets as the ultimate compliment.

After all, being earmarked as a Footballer of the Year contender knocks spots off the early days at Spurs when, by his own admission, Ginola fretted that north London's fickle tendency would write him off as a "beach bum".

And although Ginola has never disguised his preference for champagne and truffles, this year has been a triumph for his flair in the muck and nettles of places like Wimbledon and Barnsley.

If his spellbinding winner at Oakwell in last month's FA Cup quarter-final doesn't win goal of the season, we can all pack up.

But it is only 18 months since Gerry Francis quit as Tottenham manager, and the passive shrugging of shoulders that greeted his departure mirrored the indifference which met Ginola's £2.5million arrival from Newcastle weeks earlier.

"It was not a big signing for the club," admitted Ginola. You know the problem — I came back from holidays and I had my long hair, with a sun tan and I looked like some St Tropez beach bum. I didn't look like a fighter.

"But it is what you get inside someone that counts — heart and spirit. After a while the crowd realised that, even if the club was struggling, they had a player they could count on."

"They understood David Ginola is not a player who only turns it on when things are going well. I have always been kicked. Every game I get one, two, three players marking me. Either I stop playing football or I

carry on as best I can.

"To be honest, it's a good compliment that people think how dangerous you are so they try to stop you every possible way. They mark me close, I get past them."

"Then they knock me over — sometimes all defenders can do is to foul you, but it's more frustrating for them than for me."

Ginola's submissive receipt of all those fouls, not to mention a few that referees haven't spotted, is a triumph of his spirit over those who claimed he would be the first casualty of George Graham's reign. As it happens, he has been the cornerstone of Tottenham's revival, driven towards fulfilment by Graham's obsession with perfection.

Talking to Match of the Day, Ginola added: "People always expect more from me than other players: something different, something special."

"But if I was perfect, maybe I would not be playing for Tottenham — I would be in a team like Milan or Barcelona. But I am not perfect."

Meanwhile, talking about getting special treatment, Leicester midfielder Robbie Savage was protected by 10 minders at White Hart Lane on the weekend.

Savage is public enemy No.1 for Spurs fans following the Worthington Cup final a fortnight ago when he was blamed for Tottenham defender Justin Edinburgh's red card.

Spurs supporters aimed punches and spat at the Welsh international. Guess he now knows how Ginola must sometimes feel.



"I have always been kicked" ... Ginola

FIRST DIV SOAP OPERA HAS NEW AUSSIE STAR

The amazing strength of Australia as a nation producing quality keepers was further underlined when Jason Kearton has a blinder on the weekend.

When Kearton arrived at Everton as a kid the main reason for his popularity was his willingness to tell his mates what would happen in future episodes of Neighbours!

But Kearton was a star in his own right playing the lead role in the First Division soap operas of promotion and relegation.

Twice Kearton produced moments of top quality to stop Birmingham climbing into third place with a win they would just about have deserved.

First the unsung Aussie threw himself full length to turn away a glorious curling shot from Gary Rowett.

Then Kearton topped that effort by pushing a 20-yard shot from Bryan Hughes out of the top corner after his team-mates had taken too long to clear.

The keeper earned glowing praise from frustrated Blues boss Trevor Francis.

"I thought his saves from Hughes and Rowett were quite exceptional," said Francis. "We wanted to come here and win, we were expecting to. But you have to score and we were not good enough to do it."

According to local press reports, Kearton rode his luck in a late Birmingham siege when Martin Grainger's shot deflected off Dave Walton and hopped into his arms like a young Kylie Minogue (their words not ours!!).

Birmingham were driven to despair with boss Francis throwing a tantrum.

He tossed the ball away in disgust when a throw was given against his men.

Francis knew victory was essential — if

Birmingham are going to take the quick road to the Premiership they have to win fixtures like this. The way the players slumped to the turf in despair also suggested that they know they face the play-offs rather than automatic promotion.

Not that Crewe were a pushover. Danny Murphy was a constant danger and they attacked with imagination. Mark Rivers should have put his struggling side in front at least once in the first half. He hit the post and blazed two more chances over.

However Crewe were always shaky at the back, particularly down the left, and Birmingham should have exploited that advantage. The main plus points for Birmingham — apart from their usual endeavour — were the performances of debut boy David Holdsworth and partner Michael Johnson at the back.

However Lee Bradbury does not look the answer to their scoring problems. He was his normal perplexing mixture of the pacy and the pathetic.

Francis took Bradbury off before the end and will be hoping Dele Adebola recovers soon or Blues could miss out on their promotion dream.

The draw cost Crewe the chance of jumping out of the bottom three for the first time since October. However their brand of neat play may gain more reward as the season wears on and the faster pitches suit their style.

Boss Dario Gradi said: "We didn't have many chances. At the start of the season we would have settled for a draw from a match like this. But in our current situation we were looking for three points against a very strong team."

Next season in the Premier League we may see Kearton with Schwarzer, Bosnich, Filan and Ilic. What a remarkable achievement for Australia.

PIANO MAN FERGIE HOPING FOR A TUNED-UP MAN UTD AGAINST JUVENTUS

Next time you park yourself in some bar, have a good luck at the guy on the piano, it may just be Man United boss Alex Ferguson! He has revealed he doesn't mind tickling the ivories as a way of relieving stress from one of the most demanding of jobs.

His ability to escape the cut-throat demands of running the most successful club in England has played a major part in the success of his reign.

The insight is timely as Ferguson embarks on an eight-day test of

United's ambitions in the Premiership, Champions League and FA Cup.

He will miss the presence of Joe Kinnear at today's clash with Wimbledon as the Dons' manager recovers from a heart attack — a reminder of how vital it is to be able to switch off from the demands of the game.

"You can find a release in many ways but the important thing is to find one, to shut your mind off to it all," said Ferguson. "A phone call can trigger you off again and you are back on the management road."

"We're obsessed enough and you have to find anything to combat it. Like playing the piano, my horses, watching old movies. Westerns and gangster films. I even find watching old football videos is a great release."

"In fact, I only get stressed watching my horses run if there's a few bob riding on it."

Ferguson added: "The pressures mount every year. That's why you need a release, otherwise it would be hard to survive."

United face semi-finals against Juventus in the Champions League on Wednesday and Arsenal in the FA Cup on Sunday.

Ferguson's plans were boosted yesterday by the news that Jaap Stam will be fit to face Juventus. The Dutch defender was expected to miss out because of the ankle damage that prevents him playing against Wimbledon.

See preview of Champions League semis on page 26 with Daryl Katz.

Meanwhile, in Scotland on the weekend, Celtic coach Jozef Venglos alluded to a possible move away from the club.

The Slovakian confirmed after the 5-0 defeat of Dundee, with Aussie Mark Viduka scoring one goal, that he would make a decision within the next week about his future. It is now certain that Venglos will quit the club after just one season, a pattern adopted by Wim Jansen last season.

Venglos said: "I will make a decision in the next ten days. It will be up to me but it is not to do with money, or whether I am happy or not."

"Of course I am happy today with this victory. But you have to look after your health, too."

"It is possible under the terms of my contract that I can leave after a season but I am not making any decision at the moment."

Fergus McCann is already on his way after stepping down as managing director and, after taking his seat to a standing ovation from a capacity 60,000 crowd, he left the ground with 15 minutes to go.

Elsewhere, the relegation plot thickened dramatically as Hearts lost a two-goal lead before settling for a 2-2 draw with Kilmarnock, while Dundee United were thumped 3-0 by Motherwell and Dunfermline crashed 3-1 after taking an early lead at Pittodrie.

United manager Paul Sturrock said: "You can't afford to make defensive mistakes like that and win."

Hearts debutant Darren Jackson remains convinced his new club will be playing in the Premier League next season, despite dropping two more points.

Jackson was impressive, helping Gary McSwegan to a double, and afterwards said: "That was a downer when the equaliser went in, but we must be positive after that performance."

"We are a point closer to being safe, rather than being three points adrift and I'm sure things can turn for us."

Manager Jim Jefferies added: "We murdered them in the first half."

Killie boss Bobby Williamson said: "Ian Durrant was superb — he ran the show for us."

Jokey Scott's Dundee are still in the thick of the drop-zone battle and he said: "We had no belief and when we lost an early goal, that was that."



Jaap Stam looks like he will play tomorrow night against Juve.

Compiled by and written by

Daryl Katz

UK

League highlights

SOUTHAMPTON V ARSENAL

Struggling Southampton kept alive their hopes of yet another relegation escape act by holding title-chasing Arsenal to a goalless draw at The Dell on Saturday.

Arsenal threw everything at Southampton in a bid to make up ground on Manchester United at the top of the table but couldn't find a way past stand-in goalkeeper Neil Moss.

Despite fielding a depleted line-up, the Saints started confidently. They could have gone ahead in the second minute when Wayne Bridge robbed Lee Dixon deep in Arsenal territory and forced a save from David Seaman.

Seaman should have been picking the ball out of his net six minutes later when Mark Hughes squandered an excellent opportunity. Egil Olsenstad pulled the ball back into the path of Hughes in front of goal, only for the Welshman to miscue and hit the post.

The normally clinical Nicolas Anelka was guilty of wasting Arsenal's best chance of the half, two minutes before the interval. He was found by Dixon inside the area but his finish was wild.

The Gunners were more forceful after the break but found the Southampton defence solid in front of keeper

Neil Moss, who was making only his second start of the season in place of the injured Paul Jones.

The goalkeeper performed well for the Saints, making two brave second-half stops at the feet of Anelka, and an excellent save to deny substitute Louis Boa Morte.

Nigerian Nwankwo Kanu might have secured the points for Arsenal when Anelka unlocked the Southampton back-four with a dash and a clever turn to give Scott Hiley the slip.

The Frenchman squared the ball from the right to Kanu but his weak side-foot effort was aimed straight at Benali with Moss out of position.

Mark Hughes was left to wonder if he is ever going to score for his club when he was denied by a brilliant save from Seaman in the 76th minute.

Hiley picked out the Saints striker with an inch-perfect cross from the right and the Welshman powered a header on target only to see Seaman hurl himself across his goal-line to parry.

The result meant another precious point for the home side, but two vital points dropped by Arsenal in the title run-in.

LIVERPOOL V EVERTON

Liverpool secured a 3-2 victory in the Merseyside derby at Anfield on Saturday, forcing neighbours Everton deep into relegation trouble.

Gerard Houllier finally switched to a 4-4-2 formation, with Steve McManaman in the side for what will be his last appearance in this famous fixture.

Deadline-day signings Kevin Campbell and Scott Gemmill made their debut appearances for Everton, who were off to a spectacular start with a goal after just 41 seconds.

When Steve Staunton headed out a long throw, the ball fell to Dacourt some 30 yards out. The Frenchman marked his derby debut with a ferocious volley that skimmed off Staunton's head and flew past David James into the top corner.

In a typically competitive encounter, Liverpool struck back on 14 minutes through Robbie Fowler. The prolific striker scored from the spot after a trip on Paul Ince by Marco Materazzi.

Fowler then caused some controversy, enraging the visiting fans with an extravagant celebration.

The police had to be called in to quell the Everton supporters, but Fowler remained unaffected and struck again on 21 minutes.

Staunton and McManaman helped on a Patrick Berger corner, with Fowler finishing from inside the six-yard box.

A Staunton foul on Branch after 28 minutes almost produced an Everton equaliser as Materazzi stepped up to smash a 25-yard swerving effort against James' right hand post.

Michael Owen then went close after Berger had shaken off three attempted tackles, but Thomas Myhre managed to block the shot from point-blank range.

Owen went close again at the start of the second half, his header just clearing the far post.

Liverpool looked to have settled the issue after 82 minutes when Berger drilled home a low 18-yarder after Dacourt had headed out a Jamie Redknapp corner.



Frenchmen Dacourt (11) celebrates with teammate Short after putting Everton in the lead with a 30-yard screamer.

In a grand-stand finish, Liverpool substitute Steven Gerrard twice cleared off the line from Campbell and then Danny Cadamarteri as Liverpool held on in the face of a late onslaught.



Liverpool's Robbie Fowler enraged the Everton fans with this extravagant celebration after his first goal.

LEEDS V NOTTS FOREST

David O'Leary's Leeds side equalled a club record with a seventh successive league victory on Saturday, defeating Nottingham Forest 3-1 at Elland Road despite a lacklustre performance.

Leeds are now just three wins away from beating the all-time record of nine set 68 years ago, but that will be of little concern to O'Leary after this disappointing showing from his high-flying young side.

Leeds began in lethargic fashion, perhaps a result of their recent two-week break. Passes went astray and there was little composure or fluidity.

However, Forest's confidence is such that they were unable to take advantage early on.

Apart from Jimmy-Floyd Hasselbaink's 17th goal of the season, the first half was instantly forgettable.

In the 11th minute, Stale Stensaas, on-loan from Rangers, flashed an angled drive across Nigel Martyn and inches beyond the left-hand post after a one-two with Andy Johnson on the edge of the area.

United's teenage star Alan Smith, back in the side after a one-match ban, clipped the base of the post after a surging run just before the half-hour.

It was left to Hasselbaink to inject some much-needed life into the match with his sublime 43rd-

minute solo strike.

Using his power and pace to leave Johnson and Steve Chettle in his wake, the Dutch international looked up and picked his spot with an 18-yard right-foot rocket which flew into the top right-hand corner of Mark Crossley's goal.

Forest battled on however, and their efforts were rewarded in the 53rd minute with a quality finish from Alan Rogers.

Dougie Freedman's backheel set up Rogers to rifle his third of the season past Martyn with a rising half-volley.

However, within seven minutes Leeds were back in front when former Scotland international Richard Gough brought down Hasselbaink 25 yards from goal.

Hasselbaink has been deadly in recent weeks from dead-ball situations, but this time Ian Harte stepped up to curl a left-foot shot beyond Crossley.

Forest substitute Neil Shipperley headed narrowly over the bar late on, and it was the closest Forest came to another equaliser before Smith sealed the win in the 83rd minute.

Harte's far post corner was knocked back into the six-yard box by Jonathon Woodgate, and Smith was on hand to volley home his seventh of the season.

SHEFF WED V COVENTRY

Coventry City secured a vital 2-1 victory over Sheffield Wednesday at Hillsborough on Saturday, easing their own relegation worries but dragging Danny Wilson's side back to the fringe of the fight against the drop.

Wednesday started brightly, and good work between

Niclas Alexandersson and Benito Carbone created an opportunity for Petter Rudi after 13 minutes. The big Norwegian could not make the most of Carbone's cross however, and lashed the ball over the bar.

Rudi was unfortunate in the 16th minute after a great pass by Des Walker found Peter Atherton sprinting to the by-line.

The Owls skipper sent over another great cross but the Wednesday midfielder's deft header hit the far post and flew behind for a goal kick.

Coventry appeared to be reeling until Gary Breen sent a tremendous long pass forward to Darren Huckerby in the 19th minute. Emerson Thome appeared set to clear but missed his kick leaving Huckerby free to run into the area.

Wednesday goalkeeper Pavel Smicek raced off his

line, but could only haul down the striker, and Gary McAllister comfortably stroked home his third goal of the season from the penalty spot.

The visitors' confidence soared and a series of McAllister corners threatened as Smicek failed to communicate with his colleagues.

Wilson adjusted his tactics in response, bringing Danny Sonner into midfield for Ritchie Humphreys, allowing Carbone a more attacking role.

Wednesday were transformed and reaped the reward six minutes after the break.

The Italian acrobatically forced the ball goalwards, and Rudi appeared at the far post to apply the finish.

However, with just seven minutes remaining, Coventry

scored a winner against the run of play.

A low Huckerby cross was met by Noel Whelan on the edge of the six-yard area. Smicek came to meet the striker but could only stretch out a leg and the ball bounced beyond him to make the score 2-1.



Sheffield Wednesday captain, Peter Atherton.

TOTTENHAM V LEICESTER

Leicester City defeated Tottenham Hotspur 2-0 at White Hart Lane on Saturday, exacting some measure of revenge for their defeat in the Worthington Cup final two weeks ago.

The Spurs support jeered the visitors from the start in a match that degenerated into an unpleasant spectacle.

Spurs might have scored twice in the opening minutes. First, goalkeeper Kasey Keller bravely smothered the ball at the feet of Les Ferdinand following a surging run from Steffen Iversen, and the American then kept out a full blooded drive from the Norwegian striker.

Leicester barely threatened as an attacking force in the opening period, but still managed to take the lead just before the interval.

Guppy angled in a free kick from the right and although Matt Elliott challenged, the final touch belonged either to Sol Campbell or Ferdinand as the ball deflected past Ian Walker.

Spurs faded badly after their bright start, clearly missing suspended England midfielders Tim Sherwood and Darren Anderton.

They still looked certain to equalise early in the second half when Nielsen's long-throw was inadvertently helped across the face of goal by Elliott but Ruel Fox somehow failed to make contact as the goal beckoned.

They paid heavily for the lapse in the 67th minute when Leicester once again broke out of their defensive shell for Tony Cottee to grab his milestone 200th league goal.

Heskey made a strong run down the right and Cottee reacted first to his low cross, turning the ball in past the helpless Walker.

Ferdinand, still seeking his first goal since December, then sent a flying header just too high from Steve Carr's cross before Keller somehow turned Nielsen's low shot over the bar from the foot of his left-hand post.

In the end Spurs were left desperately appealing for penalties, and appeared to have a good case when substitute Andy Sinton was taken down in the box by the battling Heskey.

The home side could not find the net however, and Martin O'Neill's side held on for a vital three points which saw them pull clear of the relegation dogfight.

Meanwhile, Blackburn Rovers, another relegation-threatened side, could only manage a goalless draw with Middlesbrough at Ewood Park.

The home side created more goalscoring opportunities, with Jason McAteer and Matt Jansen at the heart of their best efforts.

Boro goalkeeper Mark Schwarzer held a Chris Sutton flick at the second attempt before Matt Jansen headed over, and the goalkeeper saved low to his right from Ashley Ward.

Schwarzer also stopped a left-footed shot from Jansen before Callum Davidson unleashed a shot on the run which travelled just wide.

Boro caused the home side one or two nervous moments as Hamilton Ricard was just inches away from directing a Robbie Stockdale drive into the net and Davidson again tried his luck in the dying minutes.

Paul Gascoigne might have secured the points for Middlesbrough late in the game, but his 22-yard free kick found the woodwork as the two sides shared the spoils.

Compiled and written by

Daryl Katz

UK

League Highlights

DERBY V NEWCASTLE

Newcastle United shrugged off the loss of several key players for Saturday's fixture against Derby County, emerging 4-3 winners in an absorbing match at Pride Park.

Missing strike pair Alan Shearer and Duncan Ferguson as well as German international Dietmar Hamann, Ruud Gullit's side showed resilience and character, coming from behind to claim all three points.

Derby had won six of their seven home matches since Christmas, and seemed on course for another victory when Deon Burton fired them in front with his 12th goal of the campaign after only eight minutes.

However, Newcastle were level inside three minutes, Welsh international Gary Speed taking advantage of some slack County marking to head home unchallenged from 10 yards.

Derby reclaimed the lead in the 21st minute, Nikos Dabizas hauling back Francesco Baiano in the penalty area. Baiano stepped up to place the resulting spot-kick just out of the reach of the diving Shay Given.

However, Derby did not heed the earlier lesson and again allowed their opponents to equalise within three minutes.

Speed's angled 20-yard free-kick caught Burton on the end of the wall and that was enough to divert the shot past Russell Hoult, who remained rooted to the spot.

Given then produced a superb one-handed save to deny Mikkel Beck a goal on his Derby debut, and on 39 minutes Newcastle grabbed a lead they were never to relinquish.

The Rams failed to close down Temuri Ketsbaia 25 yards out and his drive took a wicked deflection

off Stefan Schnoor, wrong-footing Hoult once again.

Derby lacked ideas after the interval, though Burton bundled the ball just wide, and Nolberto Solano all but put the result beyond doubt with a fierce shot on the hour.

Smith sent on Paolo Wanchope and Dean Sturridge in a bid to haul his side back into contention and the two combined to pull a goal back, Sturridge's cross headed home by Wanchope from six yards.

It proved too little, too late for Derby however, with Newcastle already having done enough to secure the victory.



Derby's Dorigo outjumps Newcastle's Solano to head the ball away.

WIMBLEDON V MAN UTD

Wimbledon produced a stunning defensive performance at Selhurst Park on Saturday to deny Manchester United full points in an open and exciting match which ended with the scores locked at 1-1.

The first chance in a lively game fell to Andy Cole after five minutes, the United striker seeing his shot smothered at close range.

The home side took the lead seconds later however, courtesy of some poor defensive work from United.

A long clearance from goalkeeper Neil Sullivan saw Gary Neville send a weak back-header in the direction of Peter Schmeichel. Jason Euell reacted well to nip in and played the ball past the big Dane before following up to clip the ball into the net at full stretch.

Three minutes later United might have drawn level as a David Beckham cross found Henning Berg totally unmarked at the far post, but he could only head over the bar.

On 14 minutes, United were almost caught out again. John Hartson and Ronny Johnsen tangled on the edge of the area and the ball broke for Euell, who drew a superb save from Schmeichel with a powerful shot.

United then began an extended spell of pressure, with Neville attempting to atone for his earlier lapse. A run and shot by the defender was followed by a penetrative cross for Berg, but neither effort found the net.

On 18 minutes, Roy Keane and Dwight Yorke exchanged passes in the Wimbledon penalty area, but Sullivan came quickly from his line to block Keane's acutely angled effort.

Four minutes later, Swedish winger Jesper Blomqvist found Cole, who turned in the area but could only fire his shot over the bar.

United never wavered as they continually pushed forward in search of the equaliser, but did show some vulnerability at the back which gave the home side hope throughout the first period.

On the half hour, Cole set up Paul Scholes, who fired in a low 20-yard drive, Sullivan scrambling again to save at full stretch.

Nine minutes from the break, Blomqvist expertly manoeuvred a shooting opportunity in the Wimbledon area, but fired wastefully wide.

Wimbledon threatened again seconds later, Ceri Hughes rising in the United area to meet a cross from Marcus Gayle, but could not keep his header down.

After 39 minutes, a goalmouth scramble saw Cole and Keane desperately trying to force the ball home from close range, but Sullivan finally managed to gather.

Three minutes later, Neville found Scholes in the area, but the diminutive striker was crowded out as Wimbledon defended in numbers.

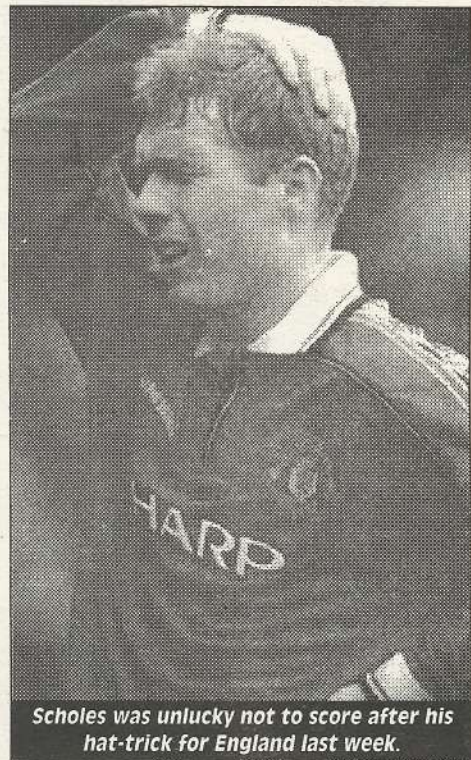
A minute from the break, United fashioned a deserved equaliser. Irwin produced some neat footwork on the United left and his low cross cannoned into the air off Dean Blackwell. Beckham reacted first to the loose ball and forced it home from six yards.

The second period saw United establish total dominance of both territory and possession as they battled to break down the Wimbledon rearguard.

Probing patiently to start with, Sullivan loomed large as neat and intricate United buildup play created clear openings for Yorke, Cole and Blomqvist before the hour mark. Berg went close again after 62 minutes, but could not force the ball home.

Wimbledon threatened briefly, Robbie Earle and Gayle each forcing a save from Schmeichel on either side of another effort from Cole.

The United assault gained momentum as the game entered its closing stages. Yorke rose to meet a Neville cross after 78 minutes, but the ball travelled narrowly wide from six yards. Yorke and substitute Solskjaer then sent Scholes clear, but Sullivan again dived to his right to complete the save as a goal seemed inevitable.



Scholes was unlucky not to score after his hat-trick for England last week.

The United onslaught intensified in the face of a stubborn defensive performance, and six minutes from time Sullivan scrambled a Yorke cross into the path of Beckham, who volleyed powerfully but high from 12 yards.

Three minutes from time Beckham lined up a free kick, but it came back off the defensive wall. Just on full time, Johnsen rose to meet yet another Beckham corner and Cole went close to finishing from a yard out.

A goalmouth scramble in injury time seemed to indicate that the winner was not meant to be for United, and it was left to Euell to send the final chance of the match soaring over Schmeichel's bar.

Alex Ferguson will have come away from Selhurst Park wondering how United failed to secure full points following such a dominant performance.

The answer lies in the defensive commitment of the home side and a towering performance from Sullivan on a day when United might have run riot.

CHARLTON V CHELSEA

Chelsea maintained their title challenge with a 1-0 victory over Charlton Athletic at the Valley on Saturday, consigning Alan Curbishley's side to a survival dogfight for the remainder of the season.

Chelsea dominated early in this passionate London derby, laying siege to Sasa Ilic's goal.

Gianfranco Zola and Albert Ferrer hit the side-netting, but Roberto Di Matteo was deadly accurate firing home Chelsea's opener on 11 minutes.

Charlton are resilient however, and refused to buckle under the weight of Chelsea pressure. Mark Kinsella and Martin Pringle tested the visitors' back-line and forced keeper Ed De Goey into several fine saves.

Swedish international Pringle wasted the best first-half opportunity for the home side when, despite beating De Goey, he saw his effort brilliantly cleared off the line by Marcel Desailly.

Chelsea might have extended their lead before the break as Ilic

was forced to repel a bombardment. Tore Andre Flo and Zola went close, while the innovative Ferrer was a constant thorn in Charlton's side.

After the break, the home side's record \$2.7 million signing Graham Stuart almost marked his debut with a headed goal, but the Valley faithful watched in agony as the ball flashed wide.

The home side began to enjoy themselves after the break, but their neat passing game lacked the bite to penetrate Vialli's all-star line-up.

Ilic was again in the thick of the action as the visitors increased the tempo in search of a decisive strike. The goalkeeper kept out a stinging Di Matteo effort with a textbook block and then saved a precision, close-range Flo header with his feet.

With Chelsea in the ascendancy, the time was right for their temperamental captain, Dennis Wise, to earn his obligatory yellow card by clattering into John Barnes.

Charlton campaigned to the whistle, but the visitors never realistically looked like surrendering their early lead.



Wimbledon's goalkeeper, Neil Sullivan makes a save in front of United's Dwight Yorke. Sullivan kept United at Bay denying the Red Devils full points in the race for the league.

WOLVES **v** **MARCONI** **BRANDON PARK** **SUNDAY APRIL 11**

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